CITY HILIGHTS

The Truth Speaks

SUNDAY ▸ APRIL 19, 2026 ▸ VOL: 11 ▸ ISSUE: 274 ▸ PAGES 12 ▸ ₹2.00

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'Foeticide of honest effort'

'Before the eyes of the entire nation, Cong and its allies have committed the 'foeticide' of this honest endeavor by blocking the Women's Reservation Bill'

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi lambasted the Congress and its allies in his address to the nation on the Women's Reservation Bill on Saturday, saying they committed what he called "foeticide of this honest endeavour".

"Before the eyes of the entire nation, the Congress and its allies have committed the foeticide of this honest endeavour. Parties like the Congress, the Samajwadi Party, and the DMK are the perpetrators of this act. They have committed an offence against the Constitution and against the womanhood of this country," he said.

The Centre on Friday couldn't pass the bill required to amend the Women's Reservation Bill in the Lok Sabha. The Centre needed a two-thirds majority to get the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026, passed, but fell short of the mark. The proposed legislation saw 298 MPs voting in its favour and 230 voting against.

The government intended to increase the Lok Sabha's strength from 543 to a maximum of 850 and provide a 33 per cent reservation to women. It moved three interlinked bills on Thursday in the Lok Sabha. After the Constitution Bill failed the Parliament test, it didn't put the other two bills to a vote.

Why does it trouble DMK, Congress to see ordinary women rise? These one-family parties want power to remain confined within their own families.
—Narendra Modi, PM

We defeated in Parliament, a bill in which delimitation was hidden; we defeated it to defend the idea of India, which is a union of states, and every single state should have a voice.
—Rahul Gandhi, LoP LS

MODI APOLOGISES TO 'MOTHERS' OF COUNTRY

"Today I'm here to discuss an important issue, especially for the women of this country. Every citizen of this country is witnessing how women's progress has stalled... Despite our best efforts, we haven't succeeded. Amendments could not be made in the Nari Shakti Adhiniyam (Women's Reservation Bill). And I apologise to all the mothers and the nation for this," he said. He said the women of the country suffered because of the Congress, the DMK, the TMC and the Samajwadi Party's "selfish politics".

'Noble effort derailed...'

PM Modi said his government's Women's Reservation Bill was a "noble effort" that was "derailed" by the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) and the Indian National Congress (INC), accusing them of turning it into a "target of hatred and petty politics".

Addressing a poll rally in Coimbatore, the Prime Minister, while targeting the ruling DMK in Tamil Nadu and the Congress over the Bill's defeat in the Lok Sabha on Friday, asked, "Why does it trouble DMK, Congress to see ordinary women rise?"

He said he had personally appealed to opposition parties to support the Bill and had even offered to give them credit, adding, "I only wanted sisters from ordinary families to come to Parliament and Assemblies in good numbers." "But unfortunately, this noble effort got derailed. DMK, Congress and their allies made it a target of hatred and petty politics," he charged.

MODI FIRES ON Opposition

- Women's quota a '40-year pending right', honest effort for 2029 LS polls
- We may not have gotten 66% votes to see the Bill through, but we have blessings of 100% of India's women
- Will get more chances to pass Bill, resolve for women intact
- 'Bill not about credit'; Oppn stuck to 'lies'
- 'Negative politics' of Cong hurt development
- Cong an 'anti-reform' party, opposes every decision
- Dynastic parties fear that if women get empowered, their leadership will be threatened
- Parties opposing women's quota fear leadership shift to women
- Cong, SP, TMC, DMK delayed women's quota with 'excuses'
- Women's quota to boost representation, role in growth from 2029
- Opposition relied on lies to derail the Bill, tried to mislead people
- Oppn 'celebrated' blocking women's quota, denied rightful place
- Women may forget many things, but they never forget their humiliation

Blocked to defend 'idea of India': Rahul Gandhi

CHENNAI: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday said the opposition parties defeated the delimitation bill in the Parliament on Friday to defend the "idea of India". Addressing a poll rally at Ponneri here, he said the BJP-led government at the Centre brought a new bill on April 16, and said they were trying to pass the women's bill, which he said was passed in 2023. "In the so-called Women's Bill, delimitation was hidden. The idea was to reduce Tamil Nadu's representation in the Union of India... the delimitation move by BJP was to weaken the strength of southern states, small states, north eastern states," he alleged. "We defeated in Parliament, a bill in which delimitation was hidden; we defeated it to defend the idea of India." Rahul added that India that is Bharat, is a union of states, and every single state should have a voice, be free to express itself, and protect its tradition.

Iranian guards fire on Indian tankers in Hormuz

TEHRAN/NEW DELHI

Two Indian-flagged ships were hit in the Strait of Hormuz on Saturday, shortly after Iran's military announced the closure of the waterway over the US' plan to continue its naval blockade of Iranian ports.

Official sources said a convoy of 14 India-bound ships carrying crude oil and gas was stopped by the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps after firing at two of the vessels while they were transiting the Strait of Hormuz. Following the firing, 13 of the ships returned to different locations in the Persian Gulf.

Gunboats of Iran's Revolutionary Guards Corp fired on a tanker in the strait northeast of Oman, the UK Maritime Trade Operations Centre (UKMTO) said in an online statement. "Tanker and crew are reported safe. Authorities are investigating."

The UKMTO said later that it also received a report of a container ship in the same area "being hit by an unknown projectile which caused damage to some of the containers" but no fire.

Sources said two Iranian gunboats approached the targeted tanker and opened fire without warning. The gunboats intercepted the vessel around 37 kilometres northeast of Oman, prompting other vessels in the convoy to turn back without completing the crossing. The incident was reported in waters between the Qeshm and Larak islands.

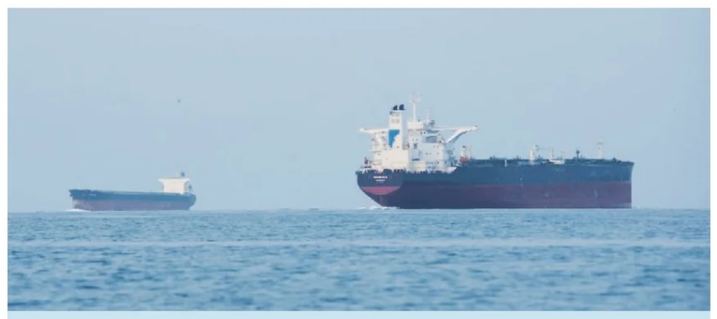
As per, TankerTrackers.com, the vessels include an Indian-flagged super tanker, carrying 2 million barrels of Iraqi oil. Following the attacks, the tankers reversed course in the strait, the vessel-tracker said.

One of the vessels hit was an Indian-flagged ship carrying crude oil. A window pane was broken after bullets fired by the IRGC struck the vessel, forcing it to halt its journey and turn back. The extent of damage to the second vessel was not immediately known, but it too returned.

The Indian Ministry of External Affairs is yet to comment on the incident.

The incidents came shortly after Iran's Supreme Leader, Mojtaba Khamenei, in a statement, warned that Tehran's Navy was ready to defeat US forces in the Strait of Hormuz.

In a statement carried on his Telegram channel, Khamenei, who has not been seen in public since before the start of the war, said Iran's "brave navy stands ready to make the enemies taste the bitterness of new defeats."



ANOTHER TANKER CROSSES HORMUZ SAFELY

However, another Indian-flagged ship carrying crude oil for the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited successfully crossed the Strait of Hormuz and is now heading towards India, sources said. According to sources, India summoned Iranian envoy Mohammad Fathali and registered strong protest over the attacks.

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India summons Iran envoy over firing on vessels

NEW DELHI

India has raised serious concerns with Iran after firing incidents involving Indian-flagged vessels in the Strait of Hormuz, stepping up diplomatic engagement as tensions in the crucial shipping lane intensify. The Iranian Ambassador in New Delhi was called in for a meeting with the Foreign Secretary this evening, where India conveyed its concern over the shooting incident earlier in the day involving two Indian-flagged ships. The Foreign Secretary stressed the importance India attaches to the safety of merchant shipping and mariners, and referred to earlier instances where Iran had facilitated safe passage for India-bound vessels. He urged the Iranian side to resume efforts to ensure the safe movement of ships through the Strait at the earliest. The Iranian Ambassador assured that India's concerns would be conveyed to authorities in Tehran.

24-year-old constable dies in bike accident

AFZALPUR

A 24-year-old police constable Dhareppa died as the motorbike he was riding went out of control and toppled on the road while traveling near Gobbur B village on Saturday morning.

Dhareppa, learned to be a resident of Shirawala village, was reportedly traveling back home to the village from Kalaburagi when the accident occurred and the bike fell on the road. The police constable, who was grievously injured in the accident, is said to have died on the spot.

Aland Deputy Superintendent of Police Thammaraya Patil, Circle Inspector Lakhan Masaguppi and Devalagangapura Sub-inspector Sangeetha Shinde visited the accident spot and inspected it.

A case has been registered and investigation is underway.

Iran cannot 'blackmail us' with Strait threats: Trump

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump on Saturday warned Iran not to "blackmail" Washington with its flip-flopping on the fate of the Strait of Hormuz, after Tehran declared the strategic waterway once again closed.

"We're talking to them. They wanted to close up the strait again -- you know, as they've been doing for years -- and they can't blackmail us," Trump said at a White House event.

Trump said there would be "some information" about Iran later in the day, adding: "We're taking a tough stand."

Iran's military on Saturday declared the strait, through which about one-fifth of the world's crude and liquefied natural gas normally passes, was once again closed, a day after saying it was open.

Tehran said it was responding to a continued US blockade of Iranian ports, calling it a violation of their ceasefire, while Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei said Iran's navy was ready to inflict "new bitter defeats" on its enemies.

Shipping sources said at least two vessels reported coming under fire while trying to transit the waterway.

India approves $1.4 bn maritime insurance pool

NEW DELHI

As conflict in West Asia disrupts crude and gas supply chains due to reduced vessel movement linked to insurance constraints, the government has approved the creation of the Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool (BMI Pool) with a sovereign guarantee of ₹12,980 crore.

The pool will run for 10 years and can be extended by a further five years, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said.

As per the government, the objective of the BMI Pool is to ensure uninterrupted and affordable marine insurance for India's shipping sector, while also reducing dependence on foreign insurers, particularly global groups such as the International Group of P&I Clubs, which currently dominate the maritime insurance market.

WHY BMI POOL?

Aims to establish a domestic maritime insurance pool aimed at safeguarding trade amid global uncertainties.

The pool will operate for 10 years with a possible five-year extension.

The insurance pool will cover all maritime risks, including hull and machinery, cargo and war-related damages.

Recently, conflict in West Asia has disrupted the movement of cargoes in and around the Strait of Hormuz, with many shipowners halting operations. Insurance companies have also become cautious, with some unwilling to provide coverage due to heightened war-related risks.

According to the government, the BMI Pool will function as a collective of Indian insurance companies working together to provide marine insurance. Under the new framework, multiple domestic insurers will combine their financial strength to form a shared pool.

NEED OF THE HOUR

CM PITCHES FOR SC BENCH IN SOUTH INDIA

BENGALURU

At a time when courts continue to struggle with case backlog and questions around access, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has pushed for a structural change, calling for a Supreme Court bench in south India.

Speaking at the 22nd Biennial State-level Conference of Judicial Officers, he said the distance from Delhi often makes it harder for people in the southern states to approach the top court.

"There is also a strong and compelling need to improve accessibility to the highest court of the land. The establishment of a Supreme Court bench in South India would go a long way in ensuring justice," he said.

There is also a strong and compelling need to improve accessibility to the highest court of the land. The establishment of a Supreme Court bench in South India would go a long way in ensuring justice.
—Siddaramaiah, CM

Siddaramaiah said the legal system is entering a phase where technology will shape how cases are handled. "We stand today at a defining juncture where law and technology are no longer separate domains, but interconnected forces shaping governance, rights, and the very nature of justice itself."

He spoke about the promise of AI but also pointed to the risks. "Artificial Intelligence is emerging as a transformative force that challenges how we interpret evidence, how we understand facts, and how decisions are arrived at. It offers immense promise, aiding faster legal research, improved case management, and the possibility of reducing pendency through intelligent systems," he said.

At the same time, he flagged concerns. "Yet, it also raises profound concerns. Algorithmic bias can undermine the guarantee of equality before law. Opaque systems may weaken the doctrine of reasoned decisions, which lies at the heart of our judicial process," he said.

He stressed that technology cannot be allowed to influence judicial independence. "Judicial independence, which is the cornerstone of our democracy, must be preserved not only from external pressures but also from subtle technological dependence," he said. "The authority of a judge must never be overshadowed by the authority of an algorithm."

On delays in courts, he said technology alone will not fix the problem. "Pendency of cases continues to be a serious concern that affects the timely delivery of justice. While technology can provide tools to address this, it must be complemented by systemic reforms through strengthening infrastructure, increasing judicial capacity, and modernising court processes," he said.

He also pointed to new challenges emerging from AI-generated material. "The emergence of AI-generated evidence presents new challenges for our legal system," he said. "Deepfakes, synthetic data, and machine-generated content compel us to revisit established doctrines relating to admissibility, burden of proof, and authenticity."

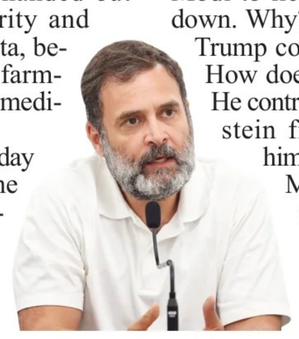
'If Trump tells Modi to jump...' Rahul at TN rally

RANIPET

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was being "controlled" by US President Donald Trump and that the PM wanted the AIADMK to capture power so that he could control Tamil Nadu Chief Minister.

Also, he claimed that the prime minister "handed out our energy security and gave away our data, besides selling our farmers and small and medium industries."

"You saw yesterday (in Parliament) the face of Prime Minister Narendra Modi completely lacking confidence," Rahul said on the delimitation bill. "He (PM) could not even face the opposition. He was sitting sideways. And the reason is, he is controlled by the United States. He signed the India-US deal that sold our country out," Rahul said while addressing an election rally here. He further said, "Today, if Donald Trump tells Modi to jump, Modi jumps. If Donald Trump tells Modi to lie down, Modi lies down. Why? Because Donald Trump controls Modi fully. How does he control him? He controls through the Epstein files. He controls him because he knows Modi's financial systems and understands Modi's link with Adani," the Congress leader alleged.



QUICK READ

Final Call Issued to Census Enumerators and Supervisors

Bengaluru
East City Municipal Corporation has issued a final call to all enumerators and supervisors deployed for the National Census 2027. A total of 3,373 enumerators and 557 supervisors have already been appointed and orders issued for census duties within the municipal limits. Training sessions for all assigned officials and staff were conducted in two phases from April 6 to April 14, 2026. Show-cause notices have already been issued to those who remained absent from the training programs. The Commissioner has warned that enumerators and supervisors who were absent from training or have failed to report for duty after attending training must immediately join their assigned ward-level responsibilities without further delay.

Disciplinary Action for Absentee Census Staff

Bengaluru
Authorities have warned of strict disciplinary action against enumerators and supervisors who have failed to report for duty in assigned census blocks and supervisor circles. Under Section 11 of the Census Act, 1948, any person legally called to assist census operations who refuses to perform assigned duties, or obstructs others from carrying them out, will face legal consequences. Offenders are liable to a fine of up to ₹1,000 and imprisonment which may extend up to three years. The period of absence will be treated as Dies-Non, resulting in loss of service benefits. In addition, disciplinary action under service rules and further legal proceedings may be initiated. The Commissioner has also warned that, wherever necessary, prosecution will be filed against defaulters to ensure smooth and timely completion of census work across the city.

Commissioner Issues Warning on Census Duty Compliance

Bengaluru
The census exercise is a task of national importance, said the Commissioner, issuing a stern warning to all appointed officers and staff. He directed them to immediately report to the designated charge officers within their respective ward jurisdictions and actively take up census duties without delay. Emphasizing accountability, he stated that the census must be completed successfully, accurately, and within the stipulated timeline.

Swift action reunites missing child with parents

The incident occurred around 1 am when officers received information near Shilpa Bakery from an informant named Rahul, who reported that a child had been found alone in the vicinity

BENGALURU

In a swift and responsible nighttime operation, the Hoysala-52 police unit, identified as CFS-7010151, successfully reunited a missing child with its parents, demonstrating prompt action and community-focused policing in Bengaluru.

The incident occurred around 1 am when officers received information near Shilpa Bakery from an informant named Rahul, who reported that a child had been found alone in the vicinity.

Upon receiving the alert, the police team immediately reached the location and ensured the child's safety. The officers acted with caution and compassion, taking the child into protective custody while beginning an urgent search for the family. They carefully scanned nearby streets, residential areas, and local establishments to gather information that could help identify the child's parents.

The team conducted systematic inquiries with residents in the surrounding neighborhood and verified available details to confirm the child's identity. Their coordinated efforts and attention to detail played a crucial role in tracing the rightful guardians within a short period of time. After successful identification, the officers contacted the parents and completed all necessary verification procedures before handing over the child safely.

The emotional reunion brought significant relief to the family, who had been searching anxiously since the child went missing. Police officials ensured that the handover process was handled with sensitivity, prioritizing the well-being of the child at every stage.

This incident highlights the efficiency and readiness of Bengaluru City Police in responding to emergency situations, especially those involving vulnerable individuals. Their quick response, thorough investigation, and commitment to public service once again reinforced public trust in law enforcement. Authorities continue to encourage citizens to report such incidents promptly, ensuring faster resolution and enhanced child safety across the city.Officials also emphasized the importance of community vigilance and timely communication with police during emergencies involving children. This reinforces public awareness and safety measures.

Timely police action saves young man's life

Bengaluru : A timely police intervention during a crisis saved the life of a 28-year-old man in Bengaluru. The young man had reportedly posted a distressing message on his WhatsApp status. Later, his home in Garabhavipalya was found locked from inside, and he was not responding to calls. Acting swiftly, Hoysala-215 police reached the spot within just four minutes. After assessing the situation, they broke open the door and entered the house. The officers found the man in a critical condition and immediately shifted him to a nearby hospital, where he received urgent medical care. Thanks to the rapid response, his life was saved. Bengaluru City Police reiterated that they are always available to help citizens in distress. In any emergency, citizens are urged to dial 112 for immediate assistance.

Workshop calls for joint action for effective implementation of SWMR-26

BENGALURU

A comprehensive workshop was held in Bengaluru to promote the effective implementation of the Solid Waste Management Rules (SWMR) 2026, bringing together citizens, resident welfare associations, non-governmental organizations, hotel associations, and officials from the city's waste management authority.

The initiative highlights the need for coordinated action and active public participation to ensure a cleaner and more sustainable urban environment.

Karigowda, Chief Executive Officer of the city's solid waste management body, emphasized that successful implementation of the new rules depends on strong collaboration among all stakeholders. He urged residents not to dispose of waste on roadsides or open spaces and instead hand it over to designated door-to-door collection vehicles. He also stressed the importance of segregating waste at the source rather than mixing different types of waste.

He further stated that households, residential complexes, and commercial establishments must adopt on-site waste processing and recycling practices. According to him, decentralized waste management will significantly reduce the burden on city infrastructure and improve environmental outcomes.The workshop also featured detailed presentations by senior officials, including the Chief Operating Officer, who explained the responsibilities of citizens, bulk waste generators, processing units, and government departments. The discussions focused on improving transparency, strengthening monitoring systems, and ensuring compliance with the updated regulatory framework.The new Solid Waste Management Rules–2026 replace the earlier 2016 guidelines and introduce major reforms aimed at making the system more scientific, efficient, and accountable. One of the key changes is mandatory segregation of waste into four categories: wet waste, dry waste, sanitary waste, and domestic hazardous waste. This classification is intended to improve recycling efficiency and ensure safe handling of sensitive waste materials.Officials also announced plans to launch a centralized online portal to monitor waste collection, processing, and infrastructure in real time. This digital system is expected to improve transparency and streamline operations across the city.Additionally, a new framework called Extended Bulk Waste Generator Responsibility has been proposed to ensure greater accountability among large waste producers, including apartment complexes and commercial establishments.

The initiative emphasizes segregation and active public participation to ensure a cleaner and more sustainable urban environment

Authorities will also conduct meetings across multiple city zones to guide residents' associations on proper waste management practices.The workshop concluded with active participation from urban planners, federation representatives, and civic groups, all of whom contributed suggestions to strengthen the city's waste management system.

Strict orders issued for immediate reporting and full compliance in Census 2027 duties without delay

Final warning issued for Census absentees

BENGALURU

A media release issued by the Bengaluru East City Corporation on 18 April 2026 has announced a final and strict warning to all officials who have been absent from duties assigned under the upcoming National Census 2027 operations. The statement emphasizes immediate compliance and full participation of all designated personnel involved in census fieldwork within the corporation's jurisdiction.

According to the release, D. S. Ramesh, Commissioner of the Bengaluru East City Corporation and Principal Census Officer for the region, has directed all enumerators and supervisors appointed for the census exercise to report without delay to their respective assigned census blocks and supervisory circles. He reiterated that attendance and active participation in field duties are mandatory and non-negotiable under the national data collection program.

The Commissioner stressed that the census is a critical national exercise requiring accuracy, discipline, and coordinated field execution. Officials who have failed to report so far have been issued a final warning, and they are instructed to assume their responsibilities immediately. The directive highlights that each enumerator must be present at their designated field locations to ensure timely preparation and effective mapping of households and population data.

The administration has further stated that supervisors are responsible for ensuring proper coordination, verification of field operations, and support to enumerators under their charge. Any negligence or continued absence may lead to strict administrative action in accordance with applicable service rules and government procedures. The emphasis of the directive is to ensure that no disruption occurs in the preparatory phase of the Census 2027 process.

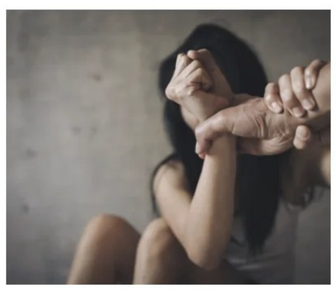
Officials have also been reminded that the census is essential for national planning, policy formulation, and allocation of resources. As such, every assigned staff member is expected to treat their responsibilities with utmost seriousness. The corporation has called for full cooperation, punctuality, and discipline to maintain the integrity of the data collection process.

The Bengaluru East City Corporation concluded the release by reaffirming its commitment to conducting the census in a systematic, transparent, and efficient manner, urging all personnel to comply with instructions immediately and ensure successful completion of their assigned duties.

Woman assaulted after alleged affair disclosure

BENGALURU

A serious incident of alleged violence has been reported from the Vyalikaval area of Bengaluru, raising concerns about escalating personal disputes turning into physical confrontations. A woman has claimed that she was brutally attacked by a father and son following a conversation related to an alleged extramarital relationship.According to the complaint filed with the local police, the incident occurred around 10 PM on Friday night near the victim's residence. The woman stated that she had responded to questions posed by the wife of a man allegedly involved in an extramarital relationship. She has clarified that she did not initiate any disclosure on her own, but answered honestly when directly questioned by the concerned spouse.Shortly after this interaction, the woman alleges that two individuals, identified as Nagaraj and his son Lokesh,



arrived at her home in an agitated state. The situation reportedly escalated quickly, leading to a physical confrontation. The complainant has accused the duo of dragging her outside her residence and physically assaulting her. She further alleged that stones were used during the attack, intensifying the severity of the incident and causing injuries.The incident has created tension in the neighborhood, with residents expressing concern over the nature of the violence and the rapid escalation of a private dispute into an alleged public assault.

Local sources indicate that such incidents have contributed to growing unease in residential communities where personal conflicts occasionally spill into public aggression.

Police officials from the Vyalikaval Police Station have confirmed that a formal complaint has been registered by the woman.

At the same time, authorities also noted that a counter-complaint has been submitted by the opposite side, indicating conflicting versions of the incident. Both parties have been called in for questioning as part of the ongoing investigation.Investigators are currently examining statements from witnesses and reviewing available evidence to determine the sequence of events. Officials have stated that appropriate legal action will be taken once the inquiry establishes the facts of the case.

The situation remains under active investigation, and further updates are expected as authorities continue to gather information.

City cops uncover exploitation case targeting govt officers

BENGALURU

Bengaluru police have uncovered a disturbing case involving alleged coercion, sexual exploitation, and blackmail targeting women officers working in sensitive government departments.

The accused, identified as Kripalani, has been arrested following a complaint filed by a woman customs officer, triggering a deeper investigation that has reportedly revealed more than fifty potential victims.According to police officials from Pulikeshinagar Police Station, the accused allegedly used a calculated pattern to approach women officers, particularly those working in the Goods and Services Tax and Customs departments. Investigators claim that he initially established professional contact before gradually building personal relationships through frequent meetings and social interactions.

AFFAIR MURDER CASE

Brutal murder case uncovered after month-long mystery

BENGALURU

A shocking criminal case has emerged involving a long-term marriage, an alleged extramarital relationship, and a brutal murder that remained hidden for months before being uncovered by investigators. Authorities are now probing the circumstances surrounding the death of a man whose remains were discovered in a severely decomposed state, with only his skull reportedly recovered from a garden area.

According to preliminary information, the deceased, identified as Mallikarjun, had been married to Yamuna for approximately 19 years. The couple, who resided in Bangalore, had two children together, and by all outward appearances, their marriage had continued for years without major public dispute. However, investigators believe that underlying tensions had been building within the household.

Reports suggest that Yamuna, who worked at a private company in Nandiwali, became involved in an alleged relationship with another man, identified as Raghavendra.

This relationship is believed to have developed over time and eventually created serious conflict within the marriage.

Police sources indicate that this alleged affair may have played a central role in the events that followed.

The situation reportedly escalated when Mallikarjun became aware of the relationship. Investigators suspect that arguments and domestic disputes may have intensified in the days leading up to his disappearance. What initially appeared to be a private family matter soon turned into a criminal investigation after Mallikarjun was reported missing.

K'taka faces growing demand for language-based rules for auto, cab drivers

BENGALURU

A fresh language debate has intensified in Karnataka as demands grow to make Kannada language proficiency mandatory for auto-rickshaw and cab drivers, particularly in Bengaluru. The discussion has gained momentum following recent developments in Maharashtra, where authorities are reportedly considering strict language-based requirements for transport drivers.

In Karnataka, several private transport associations and commuter groups are now urging the state government to introduce similar regulations. They are also demanding that driving licences be cancelled or denied to drivers who are unable to read, write, or speak Kannada.

JD(S) protests over Women's Reservation Bill defeat

Party's women wing stages protest alleging political sabotage of bill

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A major protest was organized by the Janata Dal (Secular) women's wing in Bengaluru condemning the alleged defeat of the Women's Reservation Bill in Parliament. The demonstration took place at Freedom Park, where party members accused the Congress party and its allies of blocking the bill that proposed 33 percent reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies.

The protest witnessed participation from party legislators, members of the legislative council, and several senior leaders. Women workers raised slogans against senior national leaders of the Congress party, holding them responsible for the failure of the proposed legislation.

Speaking at the protest, former minister Leeladevi R. Prasad recalled that efforts to ensure women's representation in legislatures began in 1996 when a similar bill was introduced in Parliament. She alleged that political opposition at that time also led to its failure. She claimed that history had repeated itself and accused the Congress party of betraying women by preventing the passage of the bill. She further stated that the party had consistently followed policies that were not supportive of women's empowerment and asserted that women voters would respond strongly in the future.

Other leaders, including Greater Bengaluru JDS President H. M. Ramesh Gowda, former legislator K. A. Tippeswamy, and legislative council member T. A. Saravana, also addressed the gathering. They argued that the bill, if passed, would have created a historic milestone in the country's democratic system by ensuring greater representation for women in elected bodies. They accused the Congress party of missing a significant opportunity for political and social reform.

Speakers further claimed that the opposition to the bill was driven by political insecurity and fear of reduced representation in legislatures if women's participation increased. They also criticized allied parties for their role in the bill's failure.

The protest saw participation from several women leaders and party workers from different regions of Bengaluru. Leaders including Kavitha Reddy, Mangalamma, Malleswari, Anuradha, Jayalakshmi Karthik, and Vijayalakshmi were present in large numbers. The event received support from legislators, former legislators, and various organizational leaders across the city.

Karwar exams rescheduled over multiple April dates

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Authorities revise exam dates ensuring smooth and systematic conduct

Authorities in Karwar have officially announced a revised schedule for upcoming examinations, introducing changes aimed at ensuring a smooth and well-organized process. The decision was communicated on April 18, with officials citing administrative and logistical reasons behind the rescheduling.

According to the revised timetable, examinations will now be conducted on April 19 and April 20. On both days, the exams will be held in two separate sessions to accommodate all candidates efficiently. The morning session is scheduled from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM, followed by an afternoon session from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM. This arrangement is expected to reduce congestion at examination centers and provide sufficient time for proper management between sessions.

In addition to these dates, authorities have also scheduled examinations on April 21. The timing for this day will remain consistent with the earlier pattern, with exams being conducted in two sessions between 10:00 AM and 5:00 PM. Officials stated that the extension ensures that all subjects and candidates are covered without any compromise on quality or fairness.

The administration has instructed all examination centers to strictly adhere to the prescribed schedule and guidelines. Necessary arrangements, including seating, supervision, and time management, are being put in place to facilitate a seamless experience for students. Candidates have been advised to reach their respective centers well ahead of time to avoid any inconvenience.

Officials emphasized that the revised schedule reflects the administration's commitment to maintaining transparency, discipline, and efficiency in the examination process. Coordination among various departments is being strengthened to ensure that all three days of examinations proceed without disruptions.

Students and parents have been urged to carefully note the updated dates and timings. Authorities reiterated that every effort is being made to conduct the examinations in a fair and orderly manner, ensuring equal opportunity for all candidates.

QUICK READ

Strict action against Census duty absentees

CH NEWS, Bengaluru Principal Census Officer and Commissioner of Dakshina Nagar Palika, KN Ramesh, has directed all officers and employees appointed as enumerators and supervisors under the National Census of India-2027 in the jurisdiction of Bangalore Dakshina Nagar Palika to immediately report to their respective census blocks and assigned supervisor circles and discharge their duties without delay. He warned that non-compliance or absence from census work will be viewed seriously and may attract disciplinary and criminal proceedings. Ramesh emphasized that the census is a crucial national exercise and requires full cooperation from all designated staff to ensure accurate and timely data collection. He further instructed departmental heads to monitor attendance and ensure strict compliance with deployment orders across all census units. Officials stated.

First paediatric liver emergency centre launched

CH NEWS, Bengaluru Aster CMI Hospital in Hebbal, Bengaluru has launched a dedicated pediatric liver emergency center, marking a significant step in child healthcare. The facility, known as the PEARL center, is the first of its kind in the state and focuses on treating children with severe liver conditions. The center was inaugurated by Greater Bengaluru Authority Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao. A team of specialist doctors, led by Dr. Sonal Asthana, will provide timely diagnosis and treatment for pediatric liver emergencies. The facility aims to offer life-saving care to children suffering from liver failure while also supporting families during critical situations. Hospital authorities highlighted the importance of a family-centric approach, including psychological support for parents. This initiative is expected to improve access to advanced treatment and provide hope for children facing serious liver illnesses.

Sustainable Energy for India @2047: Global Conference Highlights Karnataka's Leadership

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Addressing the gathering, the speaker described the conference as a significant platform that goes beyond academic discussions, integrating law, governance, technology, and justice. With India standing at a historic turning point, the dialogue was termed crucial in shaping a sustainable roadmap for the future. Appreciation was extended to the Commonwealth Legal Education Association (CLEA), the Karnataka Energy Department, and associated organizations for facilitating such a vital global forum.

The conference emphasized that the global energy transition has reached a decisive stage, with climate change, environmental imbalances, and resource pressures affecting livelihoods worldwide. While the shift to clean energy is a global necessity, the speaker stressed that it must be fair and equitable. Developed nations, having contributed significantly to carbon emissions, must take greater responsibility by supporting developing countries through technology transfer, climate finance, and capacity building.

Highlighting the importance of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the address noted that India must adopt a unique path balancing development, sustainability, and inclusiveness. Energy, it was said, is not merely a resource but a foundation for dignity, progress, and trust. Strong governance, rather than market forces alone, is essential to ensure a just transition to sustainable energy.

The role of the judiciary was also emphasized, particularly in safeguarding environmental justice and intergenerational equity. The Supreme Court's progressive interpretations have recognized a clean and healthy environment as a fundamental right, strengthening environmental governance through key principles like the "polluter pays" doctrine and the precautionary principle.

Karnataka emerged as a frontrunner in India's renewable energy journey. With an installed capacity exceeding 25,700 MW, including major contributions from solar, wind, and hydropower, the state ranks among the leaders in clean energy deployment. Notably, nearly 80% of its electricity generation in August 2025 came from renewable sources—one of the highest in the country. Landmark initiatives such as the Pavagada Solar Park and schemes like CM Solar Agriculture and PM-KUSUM have significantly boosted solar adoption among farmers.

The state's vision extends beyond capacity building to strengthening grid infrastructure, promoting green hydrogen, enhancing energy storage systems, and ensuring universal energy access. Karnataka has also been a pioneer in renewable energy policy and aims to expand its capacity further with advanced storage-backed systems.

Concluding the address, the speaker called for collective commitment to redefining development models that prioritize sustainability without compromising inclusivity. The proposed "Bengaluru Declaration" is expected to serve as a guiding framework aligning law, policy, and innovation with the principles of justice and sustainability.

The conference ultimately reinforced India's potential to lead not just in scale, but in vision—towards a cleaner, fairer, and more sustainable energy future.

Tension erupts during rival political press meet

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Tension prevailed in Tumakuru on Saturday as members of the Congress party gathered near Patrika Bhavan following reports that leaders of a rival political group were holding a press conference in the area. The situation quickly escalated, prompting police intervention to maintain order and prevent any untoward incidents.

According to sources, state president Ravi Krishna Reddy of the Karnataka Rashtra Samithi addressed the media during a press conference and strongly criticized the administration led by Home Minister G Parameshwara. His remarks reportedly triggered concern among Congress leaders, who assembled near the venue to respond to the allegations and monitor the developments.

As the crowd began to grow, police officials stepped in and held discussions with Congress leaders, urging them not to create disturbances at the location. Authorities emphasized the need to maintain peace and ensure that the press conference could proceed without disruption. Their timely intervention helped prevent the situation from escalating further.

Meanwhile, the press conference was conducted at a police station located near Patrika Bhavan, under tight security arrangements. Karnataka Rashtra Samithi state secretary Mallikarjuna Bhattarahalli also addressed the media, criticizing the functioning of district authorities, including the Deputy Commissioner and Superintendent of Police. He challenged the administration to present a record of the district's development and asserted that their shortcomings would be exposed.

Adding to the tension, journalists attending the press conference were subjected to security checks by the police before being allowed entry into the venue. This move drew strong objections from members of the media, who expressed concerns over restrictions on press freedom and questioned the necessity of such measures.

Despite the charged atmosphere, the situation remained under control due to the presence of police personnel. The incident highlights growing political friction in the district and raises concerns about maintaining democratic space for dialogue and dissent.

Vehicle damages statue barricade, driver escapes

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

An unidentified vehicle rammed into a barricade erected around the statue of Kranti Veera Sangolli Rayanna in Chitradurga, triggering concern among residents and highlighting ongoing safety issues in the area. The incident took place on Holalkere Road, one of the city's prominent routes, where the statue stands as an important landmark and symbol of historical pride.

According to eyewitness accounts, the vehicle struck the barricade with considerable force, causing significant damage to the protective structure built around the statue. Immediately after the collision, the driver fled the scene without stopping, and the vehicle could not be identified. The absence of surveillance or immediate response has made it difficult for authorities to trace those responsible.

Local residents expressed strong dissatisfaction over what they described as repeated negligence by civic authorities. They pointed out that similar accidents have occurred in the past, yet no long-term preventive measures have been implemented. The damaged barricade has reportedly been left unattended for extended periods, increasing the risk of further incidents.

Residents have also raised concerns about inadequate lighting, poor road conditions, and the absence of proper traffic regulation near the site. They believe that these factors contribute significantly to frequent accidents. Despite submitting multiple complaints to municipal authorities, locals claim that their concerns have not been addressed effectively.

Community members have now issued a warning, stating that they will organize protests if immediate corrective steps are not taken. They are demanding urgent repairs to the barricade, installation of better lighting, and deployment of traffic control measures to ensure the safety of both pedestrians and motorists.

The statue of Sangolli Rayanna holds deep cultural and historical importance, and residents emphasized the need to protect it from further damage. Authorities are expected to take note of the situation and initiate prompt action to restore the damaged structure and prevent future mishaps.

Fearing honour killing, woman approaches HC

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Fearing honour killing, a woman has filed a petition in the High Court seeking protection from her father. The writ petition was filed seeking protection due to fear for her life.

Kajal Rajpurohit's marriage was fixed against her consent and due to this, she filed the petition. Her father Ashok Rajpurohit fixed the marriage to Dr Yashpal from Rajasthan in her absence and preparations were under way even though Kajal opposed it.

Kajal was residing under the jurisdiction of Whitefield police station.

After hearing the petition, the High Court issued directions to Whitefield police to provide appropriate protection to Kajal Rajpurohit.

MINOR GIRL DROWNS IN LAKE NEAR CITY

CH NEWS, BENAGLURU

In a tragic incident, a 14-year-old girl drowned in Vittasandra Lake near Electronic City on the outskirts of Bengaluru on Saturday. The deceased has been identified as Vidyashree, a native of Raichur. According to initial reports, the incident occurred in Vittasandra village, where the girl reportedly slipped into the lake under unclear circumstances.

Local residents alerted authorities soon after the incident, prompting an immediate response from emergency services. Personnel from the Electronic City Fire Brigade rushed to the spot and launched a search operation. After efforts lasting several hours, the team managed to recover the body from the lake. The girl's parents, who had migrated to Bengaluru in search of livelihood opportunities, were devastated by the loss. The incident has left the family and local community in deep shock. Authorities have urged residents to exercise caution near water bodies, especially during the summer season when such incidents tend to increase. Further investigation is underway to determine the exact circumstances leading to the tragedy.

DOTTED GUESTS

4 cheetahs brought to Bannerghatta zoo from Africa

CH NEWS, BANGALORE

Four new guests — two male and two female cheetahs — arrived at the Bannerghatta zoo in Bengaluru from Induna Primate and Parrot Park ub South Africa around 1.15 am on Saturday. Forest and Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre went to the airport and welcomed the four cheetahs.

The minister instructed the officiasl that because these cheetahs will experience a change in environment and climate and hence, proper care must be taken so that they do not face trouble or develop any health issues. The animals will be kept in quarantine, fed prescribed food for 30 days, and checked for any infections. Officials and veterinary officers were instructed to safely transport the animals to Bannerghatta.

The minister instructed Sunil Panwar, Member-Secretary of the Karnataka Zoo Authority, to give top priority to the safety of the cheetahs. Since the cheetahs will face a change in environment and climate, care is being taken to ensure they do not face any trouble. Appropriate monitoring is being done so that no health problems arise. After health check-ups, they will be shifted to the zoo for public viewing.

At one time, cheetahs, called 'Sivangi' in Kannada, existed in Karnataka's forests. But now they have become extinct in the state's forests. Therefore, the department has brought them so that people can at least get a chance to see them in zoos.

QUICK READ

Dentist Dr. Dikshit Kumar Meets PM at My Bharat Budget Quest

Chitradurga

In Bengaluru, under the My Bharat initiative of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, the "My Bharat Budget Quest-2026" was recently held at the Art of Living International Centre on April 12 and 13. In this prestigious two-day national competition, Dr. M.R. Dikshit Kumar, a dentist from Chitradurga, achieved remarkable recognition by reaching the final round. He further represented the region in a national-level virtual interaction with the Prime Minister, bringing pride to the district. The competition, focused on ideas related to the Viksit Bharat Budget, witnessed participation from more than 12 lakh contestants across the country. Dr. Dikshit Kumar's selection among top finalists highlights his innovative thinking and engagement with national development themes.

Practical Training for Agricultural University Aspirants

Chitradurga

Practical training has been organized for students aspiring to secure admission in various disciplines of agricultural universities at the Institute of Agricultural Technologists located in the APMC campus, Chitradurga city, on April 25 and 26. The training will provide an introduction to agriculture, horticulture, sericulture plants, fruits and vegetables, seed varieties, food grains, and agricultural equipment. This program will benefit candidates who have applied for admission to state agricultural universities under the farmer quota, as it helps prepare them for the practical examination conducted by the Karnataka.

Panchayat bans manual scavenging, enforces safe septic tank cleaning

Gadag

Under the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013, Naregal Patna Panchayat has officially prohibited the hazardous practice of manual cleaning of sewers and septic tanks. The panchayat has directed residents that septic tanks of households must be cleaned only through suction machines available with the Town Panchayat and not by any individual. It has been reiterated that maintaining unsanitary toilets or engaging.

Preparations Begin for Buddha Purnima Celebrations

OFFICIALS SCHEDULE IMPORTANT PLANNING MEETING FOR BUDDHA JAYANTI ARRANGEMENTS DISCUSSION

CHITRADURGA

A preparatory meeting has been scheduled to discuss arrangements for Buddha Purnima celebrations

The district administration has announced that a key preparatory meeting will be held on April 21 at 12:30 in the afternoon at the District Collector Office Hall in the city district headquarters. The meeting has been organized to review and plan the necessary arrangements for the upcoming Buddha Purnima celebrations, which will be observed on May 1, 2026, marking the birth anniversary of Lord Buddha.The meeting will be chaired by District Collector T. Venkatesh, who will lead discussions on the overall preparations required for the smooth and meaningful conduct of the celebrations. Senior district-level officials from various departments have been instructed to attend the meeting and actively participate in the planning process.In addition to government officials, Buddhist followers and representatives from local Buddhist communities across the district have also been invited to take part in the meeting. Their participation is expected to ensure that cultural, spiritual, and community-related aspects of the celebration are properly addressed and incorporated into the planning process.

The Assistant Director of the Department of Kannada and Culture, Dr. B. M. Gurunath, has requested all concerned stakeholders to attend the meeting without fail. He has emphasized the importance of collective participation and coordination between government departments and community groups to ensure that the Buddha Purnima celebrations are conducted in a respectful, organized, and culturally significant manner.

Private Agriculture College Affiliation Applications Open

CHITRADURGA

Applications invited for new private agriculture college affiliations

Keladi Shivappa Nayaka University of Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences in Shivamogga has officially invited applications for the affiliation of private agricultural colleges for the academic year 2026–27. The last date to submit applications is May 6, 2026. The announcement has been made as part of the university's continued effort to expand agricultural education opportunities across the state.

According to the university, the decision to allow affiliation of private agricultural colleges has been taken in the interest of students. The move aims to address the increasing demand for agriculture and allied degree programs. Every year, more than one hundred thousand students apply for admission into agricultural universities in the state, but only around three thousand seats are available. This large gap between demand and availability has left many students without access to agricultural degree education.

To address this issue, the university is implementing provisions under the Agricultural Universities Act of 2009, which allows independent private colleges to be affiliated. Using this legal framework, the university has decided to invite eligible private institutions to establish affiliated agriculture colleges starting this academic cycle.

Eligible applicants include registered educational bodies such as societies, trusts, and organizations registered under the Karnataka Societies Registration Act. Interested institutions may apply to start undergraduate programs such as Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, Agricultural Engineering, Agricultural Biotechnology, Food Technology, Forestry, Community Science, Food Nutrition and Dietetics, Horticulture, and Sericulture.

The university has also published minimum standards and guidelines for affiliation on its official website. Institutions seeking affiliation must comply with these requirements and operate within the university jurisdiction, which includes Shivamogga, Davanagere, Chikkamagaluru, Chitradurga, Udupi, and Dakshina Kannada districts. Applications will be reviewed strictly according to the prescribed standards, and only eligible institutions will be considered for approval.

University invites applications to expand agricultural education opportunities across Karnataka state

Established through a special legislative act of the Karnataka government in 2012, the university has built a strong academic record. It currently operates multiple constituent and private affiliated colleges and has produced thousands of graduates in agriculture, horticulture, and forestry disciplines over the past decade. Officials have urged applicants to carefully follow guidelines, as incomplete applications or late submissions will not be considered for the 2026–27 cycle.

Kolar to Launch New Women's PU College Initiative

KOLAR

Deputy Commissioner Dr. M.R. Ravi has announced major education and welfare initiatives in Kolar district, focusing on improving access, infrastructure, and implementation of minority welfare schemes.

Chairing a review meeting of the Prime Minister's 15-Point Programme at the district office, he stressed that government schemes must produce real benefits and not remain limited to administrative records.

He announced the establishment of a new Waqf Women's Pre-University College to expand higher education opportunities for minority girls in the district.

Dr. Ravi instructed officials to begin academic activities without delay, even if temporary arrangements such as community halls or rented buildings are required until permanent infrastructure is completed.

He emphasized that lack of facilities should not obstruct education.

He also appreciated the outstanding academic performance of a CBSE school in Gajaladinne and urged other institutions to follow its model. He directed that top-performing teachers and students be recognized at a district-level event.

Expressing concern over slow progress in hostel construction in Bangarpet and Kolar Gold Fields, he ordered completion of interior works before the monsoon season. He also stressed readiness for student admissions with proper facilities.

The Deputy Commissioner warned against unauthorised schools and illegal fee collection, instructing strict action to protect economically weaker families. He further called for awareness drives in rural areas about scholarships and marriage assistance schemes, ensuring online delivery of services.

Chitradurga Prepares for Entrance Examination

CHITRADURGA

Chitradurga

The Common Entrance Examination for admission to professional courses will be conducted on April 23 and 24 across Chitradurga district, with authorities making extensive arrangements to ensure a smooth, transparent, and secure examination process. A total of 6,640 students are expected to appear for the test across 16 designated examination centres in the district.

A high-level review meeting was held at the office of the Deputy Commissioner to finalize preparations. The Additional Deputy Commissioner, B. T. Kumaraswamy, directed officials to ensure that all examination centres are fully equipped with essential facilities, including drinking water, adequate lighting, and proper sanitation. Special emphasis was placed on ensuring accessibility for candidates with disabilities, with instructions to arrange ground-floor seating wherever required.

Considering the prevailing heat conditions, officials were instructed to provide shaded areas and temporary shelters to ensure student comfort while waiting outside examination halls. The administration also stressed strict adherence to examination guidelines issued by the Karnataka Examination Authority to maintain discipline and fairness.To strengthen transparency, all examination centres will be monitored through live webcasting. District-level observers have been appointed for each institution to oversee the examination process closely. Strict protocols have been put in place for the handling, transportation, and storage of question papers and answer sheets to prevent any irregularities.

Belagavi–Hyderabad Train Service Restored: Celebration Held at Koppal Railway Station

KOPPAL

The arrival of the Belagavi–Hyderabad train at Koppal Railway Station on Friday evening turned into a celebratory occasion as members of the Karnataka State Railway Development Struggle Committee warmly welcomed the service. The event was marked by distribution of sweets to railway staff, including the train driver, as well as to passengers, reflecting the enthusiasm of local residents and railway activists over the restoration of the route.

The train service, which had been suspended during the COVID-19 pandemic period, has now been resumed after repeated appeals and sustained efforts by railway advocacy groups. Committee President S. A. Gaffar addressed the gathering and stated that the Belagavi–Hyderabad route was in high demand across several districts connected by this line.

He emphasized that the revival of the service is a welcome decision that will significantly benefit daily travelers, students, and business passengers who depend on intercity rail connectivity.

During his address, Gaffar also highlighted the historical evolution of Indian Railways, recalling that the first passenger train in India began operations on April 16, 1853, running between Bombay and Thane.

He noted that over the past 173 years, the railway system has undergone massive modernization, advancing from steam locomotives to high-speed and bullet train technologies in the present era.

Another committee leader, Channabasappa Appanavar, expressed satisfaction over the restoration of the Belagavi–Hyderabad train service. He also reiterated long-standing demands for increased train services to Bengaluru via Koppal, stressing that improved connectivity would enhance regional development and economic opportunities.

He described the reinstatement of the train as a successful outcome of consistent public pressure and advocacy efforts.

Several other committee members, including Basavaraj Sheelavant, Makhbul Rayachur, Mahantesh Kotabal, and Shivappa Hadapad, actively participated in the celebration. They joined in welcoming the train and distributed sweets in a festive atmosphere.

The gathering reflected collective joy and relief among railway activists and local commuters, who see the restored service as an important step toward strengthening transportation links in the region.

Ambedkar and Jagjivan Ram Are Like Two Eyes of Oppressed Communities, Says N.R. Chandrashekar

MANDYA

N.R. Chandrashekar, a state executive committee member of the Karnataka Madara Mahasabha and a practicing lawyer, stated that Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the architect of the Indian Constitution, and Dr. Babu Jagjivan Ram, the country's first Dalit Deputy Prime Minister, are like two eyes of the oppressed communities. He made this remark while addressing a gathering during a joint celebration of the birth anniversaries of Jagajyothi Basavanna, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, and Dr. Babu Jagjivan Ram.

The event was organized by the Mandya District Madara Mahasabha at the Mandya District Journalists' Bhavan. Speaking at the program, Chandrashekar highlighted the historical contributions of social reformers and leaders who worked for the upliftment of marginalized communities in India.He recalled that the 12th-century social reformer Basavanna played a major role in elevating the dignity of the Madara community. He noted that Basavanna strengthened social respect by acknowledging Madara Chennayya as a revered spiritual figure, thereby recognizing him as a senior saintly leader in the social reform movement. Chandrashekar described Basavanna as the heart of oppressed communities, while calling Ambedkar and Jagjivan Ram the two guiding eyes that provided direction and vision for social justice.

CET EXAM READINESS PLAN

Strict Measures Announced for District CET Exam Conduct

MANDYA

The Common Entrance Test for the academic year 2025–26 is scheduled to be conducted on April 23 and 24 across the district. A high-level preparatory meeting was held at the office of the Deputy Commissioner in Mandya, chaired by Additional Deputy Commissioner B. C. Shivananadamurthy, who stressed that the examination must be conducted in a systematic manner without any lapses or irregularities. He emphasized strict adherence to guidelines to ensure a fair and transparent process for all candidates.

According to the official briefing, the examination will be held in 12 centers across the district. In Krishnarajapet sub-division, three centers have been designated, while Mandya sub-division will host nine centers. A total of 6,259 students are expected to appear for the examination. Of these, 1,599 students are from Krishnarajapet, while 4,660 students are from Mandya.

The administration has instructed that all examination centers must provide proper seating arrangements and adequate drinking water facilities for students. Webcasting will be monitored under the supervision of the Chief Executive Officer to ensure complete transparency. Authorities have also been directed to implement Section 144 within a 200-meter radius of all examination centers to maintain order. In addition, photocopy shops in the vicinity of exam centers will remain closed during the examination period.

Security measures for question paper handling have been strengthened. Question papers will be transported from the district treasury to examination centers through four dedicated teams comprising officials not below the rank of tahsildar, block education officer, and principals as part of a three-member committee system. Separate arrangements have been made for the safe custody and movement of morning and afternoon session papers, along with secure handling of answer sheets.

Comprehensive police deployment will be provided at all centers. Escort security will accompany question papers and answer scripts between the treasury and examination centers. Female staff and home guards will assist in

frisking students before entry. The use of wristwatches, mobile phones, and all electronic devices will be strictly prohibited, and wall clocks will be installed in every examination hall.Further instructions include the prohibition of science lecturers as invigilators and restriction of parents from participating in examination duties. Additional room supervisors will be appointed, and CCTV cameras will be installed at all centers. Health officers will be deployed to ensure medical readiness, along with first aid facilities at every venue. The meeting was attended by senior district officials and education department representatives.

QUICK READ

Car Rams Parked Vehicles in B'luru, No Casualties Reported

Nelamangala

A car driver crashed into three motorcycles and an autorickshaw parked along a roadside in the city, causing panic among locals. The incident occurred in the Nelamangala area, where the vehicle reportedly went out of control before hitting the parked vehicles. The driver, identified as Anand Kumar, sustained injuries in the crash and was immediately rushed to a nearby hospital for treatment. Authorities confirmed that despite the severity of the collision, no casualties have been reported. Police have registered a case at the Nelamangala traffic police station and initiated an investigation to determine the cause of the accident. Preliminary reports suggest negligence or loss of control may have led to the mishap.

Man Dies After Fall from Hospital Building, Negligence Alleged

Devanahalli

A 34-year-old man died after allegedly falling from the third floor of Akash Hospital in Devanahalli town, raising serious concerns over hospital safety and staff negligence. The deceased, Gautam Yadav, a resident of Kodagurki village, had been admitted to the hospital a day earlier for health-related issues. The incident occurred around 7:30 am when he reportedly fell from the third floor under unclear circumstances. Family members have accused the hospital staff of negligence, questioning the lack of supervision and security. They alleged that the terrace was left open and no staff intervened to prevent the incident. Devanahalli police visited the scene and conducted an inspection. Further investigation is underway to determine responsibility and the exact cause of the fall.

RESIDENTS PROTEST OVER MUNICIPAL INACTION ISSUE

Women stage protest over unresolved e-account application delays

DEVANAHALLI

In a significant display of public dissatisfaction, a group of women staged a protest outside the Vijayapura Municipality office in Devanahalli taluk, Bengaluru, Karnataka, highlighting prolonged administrative delays and unresolved civic grievances. The demonstration was directed against the Chief Officer of Vijayapura Municipality, Satyanarayana, and his staff, accusing them of negligence and failure to address essential public service matters over an extended period.

According to the protestors, their repeated applications for an electronic account facility have remained pending for nearly two years without any meaningful progress or official response. The lack of action from the municipal authorities has caused frustration among residents who depend on timely administrative support for basic civic and financial services. The women expressed that despite multiple follow-ups and formal requests, the issue has not been resolved, leaving them without access to essential municipal services.

The protest also raised concerns regarding alleged refusal or failure by municipal officials to appropriately handle tax-related matters over the past two years. Residents claimed that such administrative inaction has created confusion and disrupted routine civic processes, affecting the

overall efficiency of local governance. They demanded immediate intervention and accountability from higher authorities to ensure that municipal responsibilities are carried out in a transparent and timely manner.

The demonstration in front of the municipal office attracted attention from passers-by and local residents, who expressed solidarity with the protestors. The group called for urgent corrective measures, including the clearance of pending applications and improved responsiveness from municipal staff. They emphasized that repeated delays undermine public trust in local administration and hinder access to essential services.

Protestors urged district-level officials to investigate the matter and ensure that responsible officers are held accountable for the prolonged delays. They also demanded a streamlined process for citizen services to prevent similar issues in the future. The protest concluded peacefully, but residents warned that further action may follow if their grievances continue to be ignored.

Neighbor Affair Leads to Deadly Murder Plot

Police uncover staged accident behind secret relationship and killing plot

HOSKOTE TALUK

Authorities in Bangalore are investigating a suspected murder case involving a woman and her neighbor, who allegedly plotted to kill a man and stage the incident as an accident. The case has drawn significant attention due to its alleged premeditation and the deceptive manner in which the crime was reportedly concealed as an unintended mishap.

According to investigators, the woman was not married and had developed a close personal relationship with a man living in the adjacent house. Over time, this relationship reportedly evolved into a secret affair. Police believe this connection became the foundation of a conspiracy targeting a third individual who was perceived as an obstacle to their continued association. Officials suggest that emotional involvement and personal motives may have contributed to the planning of the alleged crime.

Officials said the suspects allegedly organized a late-night gathering, presenting it as a casual social meeting. The victim was reportedly invited under misleading circumstances and arrived without suspicion. Investigators believe that during this gathering, the victim was incapacitated or placed in a vulnerable condition, allowing the accused individuals to carry out their alleged plan without immediate resistance or intervention from others present.

After the incident, the scene was reportedly arranged to resemble a tragic accident. Early observations and initial local accounts briefly supported the possibility of an unintentional death. However, responding officers identified inconsistencies at the location, including irregular physical evidence and contradictions in witness statements. These early concerns prompted authorities to treat the case as suspicious rather than accidental from the outset.

A special investigation unit was later assigned to the case. Through a detailed review of forensic findings and structured interviews with individuals connected to the incident, authorities identified significant gaps in the accident narrative. These findings indicated that the situation may have been carefully staged to mislead investigators and delay the discovery of the actual motive behind the death.

Police sources confirmed that the accused pair reportedly attempted to maintain normal daily routines following the incident in an effort to avoid raising suspicion. However, behavioral patterns, communication records, and digital evidence reportedly contributed to increasing doubts among investigators. This combination of factors ultimately led to intensified questioning and a broader analysis of their movements before and after the incident.

Forensic analysis played a decisive role in shifting the direction of the investigation. Experts reportedly found evidence that did not align with an accidental death scenario, strengthening suspicions of a preplanned homicide.

Four Cheetahs from South Africa Arrive in Bengaluru

DEVANAHALLI

Forests, Ecology and Environment Minister Eshwar B Khandre received four cheetahs from South Africa at Kempegowda International Airport on Saturday night. Later, the animals were taken to Bannerghatta Zoo under official supervision.

The minister emphasized strict monitoring of the cheetahs to ensure they adapt well to the new climate.

He directed veterinary staff to quarantine the animals, provide prescribed food for 30 days, and conduct regular health checks to prevent infections.

Officials were instructed to ensure their safe transportation and care. Recalling that cheetahs once roamed Karnataka's forests but are now extinct, Khandre said zoos offer an opportunity for people to see these animals again. He also directed Zoo Authority Member Secretary Sunil Panwar to prioritize the cheetahs' safety and well-being.

Two-day observance highlights Basavanna's teachings and legacy

Vijayapura Celebrates Grand Basava Jayanti Event

VIJAYAPURA

Vijayapura is witnessing the second day of the Basava Jayanti celebrations organized jointly by the Basava Jayanti Utsava Committee and the district administration. The 893rd birth anniversary of Basavanna, the revered social reformer and spiritual leader, is being marked with a series of cultural, educational, and devotional programs at Kandagal Hanumantharaya Rangamandira and other key locations in the city.

The second-day schedule on April 20 begins at 8 a.m. with floral tributes to the statue of Basavanna at Basaveshwara Circle. On this occasion, a special reception is arranged for the "Basava Run" marathon participants arriving from Basavanabagewadi, the birthplace of Basavanna, along with a team from Bengaluru. The event reflects the strong cultural and spiritual connection associated with Basavanna's philosophy.

At 9 a.m., students from a rural education institution will

present yoga demonstrations and traditional mallakhamba performances, showcasing physical discipline and cultural heritage. The program is being coordinated by designated organizers responsible for ensuring smooth conduct of the events.

At 10 a.m., a national multilingual poetry symposium will be held, bringing together scholars, writers, and poets from different regions. The session will include an inaugural ceremony, presidential address, and keynote reflections focusing on Basavanna's teachings on equality, ethics, and social harmony. A large number of invited guests, academicians, and cultural personalities will participate, contributing through poetry recitations and discussions.

In the afternoon, a grand cultural procession will begin from Siddeshwara Temple and proceed to the Rangamandira. The procession will feature musical bands, devotional displays, portraits of Basavanna and other saints, and recitations of spiritual verses, creating a vibrant atmosphere across the city.

The evening session will include official programs organized by the district administration, followed by a valedictory ceremony. Cultural performances such as devotional singing by children, vocal presentations based on spiritual literature, and dance-drama performances will be staged. A special theatrical presentation titled "The Death of the Divine" by a community theatre group will conclude the celebrations, marking the end of the event on a reflective and cultural note.

Controversy Erupts Over Legislator's Remarks, Leaders Demand Resignation

GADAG

A fresh political controversy has emerged in Gadag following remarks allegedly made by a sitting legislator, triggering strong reactions from community leaders and political figures. The issue intensified after accusations that the legislator made statements perceived as offensive and dismissive toward a particular community during a recent public gathering.

Speaking at a press interaction in Gadag, prominent leader Rudrappa Gulaguli strongly condemned the remarks and called for immediate action. He demanded the legislator's resignation, stating that such comments undermine social harmony and reflect poorly on public leadership. According to him, elected representatives have a responsibility to uphold dignity and ensure inclusive representation of all communities.

Gulaguli further pointed out that earlier efforts had been made at both the state and central levels to address the concerns of the community. He emphasized that policy recommendations and administrative measures had been initiated to provide recognition and benefits. However, he expressed disappointment that despite these steps, divisive statements were still being made.

The controversy has also revived past grievances, with allegations that members of the same community had previously faced legal and social challenges. Gulaguli argued that such recurring issues indicate a pattern of neglect and injustice, warning that public trust could erode without timely corrective action.

He also criticized the legislator for not issuing an apology, stressing that accountability is essential in a democratic system. The silence, he said, has further aggravated tensions among community members.

Several local leaders and activists expressed solidarity, urging authorities to intervene and ensure justice while maintaining peace.

Nationwide Protest Call by Trade Union Over Workers' Rights Violations

VIJAYAPURA

A major workers' movement is gaining momentum across the country after a leading trade union called for a nationwide protest, alleging widespread violations of labour rights and unfair employment practices. The announcement was made during a press briefing held in Vijayapura on April 18, 2026, where union leaders sharply criticized both state and central governments for failing to address workers' concerns.

According to union representatives, the protest is part of a broader national campaign aimed at securing justice for industrial workers facing poor working conditions, low wages, and lack of job security. Leaders emphasized that the movement extends beyond a single region and includes participation from multiple industrial hubs across northern and western India.

District-level union leaders stated that thousands of workers have already joined the agitation, particularly in industrial belts where grievances have been mounting over time. They alleged that many workers are denied fair wages and are compelled to work under unsafe and challenging conditions. Concerns were also raised about the increasing reliance on contractual employment systems, which they claim deprive workers of stability and essential benefits.

The union noted that the movement has been expanding steadily since early April, drawing tens of thousands of participants. They described it as a continuation of earlier protests and strikes, reflecting growing dissatisfaction with labour policies and economic inequality.

Among the key demands is the implementation of a fair minimum monthly wage to ensure a decent standard of living. Leaders urged authorities to initiate meaningful dialogue and take immediate action.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Mrs. S Manoranjitham (W/o C E Olaganathan) No 70 Karthik Nagar Marathalli Doddanekkundi Post Banglaor- 560037. has lost the original SALE DEED DOCUMENT NO./IDENTIFICATION:2733/1998-99. I have lodge a missing complaint with lost article report No. 2158691/2026 Dated :16.04.2026 If anyone has any documents/ rights/ claims pertaining to this property, they are requested to notify in writing within 15 days from the date of this publication. Failing which, duplicate documents will be obtained, and any claims made thereafter will not be considered.

AFFIDAVIT

I ASHA T D W/O RAVI A T aged about 42 years, Residing at Saptagiri nilaya Unnati Ranganatha Extension Layout Kanakapura Near Pipe Line Road Kanakapura Taluk, Bengaluru South District Karnataka-562117. As per Aadhar card my correct name is ASHA T D, but in my Husband Passport No: H5243980 it is mentioned ASHA but in my Passport No. P5006856 it is mentioned ASHA T D. but my correct name is ASHA T D, I declare that both names refer to me and belong solely to me. I affirm that the facts stated above are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, vide affidavit dated: 17-04-2026, before KANTHARAJU S BA. LLB Doddamannugudde Doddi Kasaba(H), Ramanagara Tq & Dist..

TEMPLE RITUAL EVENT

Devanahalli Temple Plans Two-Day Ritual Event

DEVANAHALLI

The trust committee of the revered Sri Chowdeshwari Temple in Devanahalli town, located in Bengaluru Rural district, has announced a large-scale religious programme aimed at promoting peace, prosperity, health, and overall welfare of the community. The decision was shared by Gangadharappa, a member of the temple trust, during a press briefing held ahead of the temple's 13th anniversary celebrations.

According to the committee, the temple will host a two-day religious gathering expected to attract thousands of devotees from the region and beyond. The event has been carefully planned with a series of traditional spiritual activities designed to invoke blessings and strengthen community harmony.

The programme will include sacred water offerings, a grand ceremonial resolution ritual, and special ritual bathing of the deity using auspicious materials for a continuous period of one hour. Devotees will also witness serpent worship ceremonies, meditative rituals dedicated to divine energy, and grand auspicious prayer services.

The distribution of blessed offerings to devotees will also form an important part of the schedule.

A significant highlight of the event will be a fire-based ritual conducted using red chilies, symbolizing purification and the removal of negative influences. Additionally, a special prayer ceremony dedicated to divine protective energy will be performed as part of the concluding rituals.

The trust committee has also introduced participation arrangements for devotees. Women attending the fire ritual will receive a monetary support of 200 rupees.

Furthermore, those who register for a special service contribution of 1,000 rupees will be provided with sarees as a gesture of respect and gratitude from the temple authorities.

Speaking about the arrangements, Gangadharappa emphasized that the celebrations are intended to bring spiritual upliftment and collective well-being. He also noted that extensive preparations are underway to ensure smooth participation and comfort for all attendees.

The event will be organized under the guidance of Sri Chowdeshwari Temple Trust office bearers, including S.R. Muniraju, Munikrishnappa, Nagaraj, Jayaramu, Sriramiah, Gopi, Hanumanthappa, Mohan Kumar Sastry, and several other members who are actively involved in coordinating the anniversary festivities.

With strong participation expected, the temple's 13th anniversary is set to become a major spiritual gathering in the region, reflecting deep-rooted faith and continued devotion among the local community.

Delhi CM slams Oppn for blocking women's bill

Delhi Chief Minister protests bill delay, criticises Opposition, calls it setback for women's representation nationwide

NEW DELHI

Rekha Gupta on Saturday wore a black armband to protest against the non-passage of the Mahila Shakti Amendment Bill in Parliament.

She termed the development "painful" and strongly criticised Opposition parties for blocking the 131st Constitutional Amendment Bill in the Lok Sabha on Friday.

Speaking at a women entrepreneurs summit organised by the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT), Gupta said women across the country would question what she described as the Opposition's "anti-women" stance. She also led slogans in support of women's rights during the event.

In a post on X, Gupta accused Opposition leaders of deliberately preventing women from gaining representation in the Lok Sabha. She alleged that they were more concerned about protecting their own constituencies than promoting wider participation of women in politics. The chief minister pointed out that India's population has grown significantly from about 50 crore in 1971 to nearly 140 crore today. She argued that increasing the number of seats in Parliament would allow better representation, including opportunities for women leaders to emerge. Gupta also compared India with several Western countries where women's representation in legislatures is close to or above 50 percent. She said India must move forward in ensuring equal participation of women in decision-making roles.

Calling the issue more than just political, Gupta said it concerns dignity and sensitivity for millions of women. She expressed disappointment that what she described as a key opportunity for empowering women had been lost.

She further alleged that parties like the Indian National Congress and their allies have previously obstructed measures aimed at women's empowerment.

According to her, this reflects their true intentions.

Mamata attacks PM ahead of national address

KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi ahead of his scheduled address to the nation, accusing him of spreading "another web of falsehood".

Speaking at a public rally, Banerjee said the Prime Minister's speech would mislead citizens following the failure of the 131st Constitution Amendment Bill in the Lok Sabha. The bill, linked to the implementation of women's reservation, was defeated after opposition parties refused to support the delimitation process.

Banerjee alleged that the bill was introduced with the intention of dividing the country and gaining political advantage. She claimed that the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party aimed to increase Lok Sabha seats from 543 to 850 to strengthen its position in elections. She further said her party sent all 21 MPs to Parliament despite ongoing election campaigns to oppose the move. According to her, the effort was aimed at protecting states like West Bengal from division.

Banerjee also stated that she has supported women's reservation since 1998 but opposed the current proposal due to its political motives. She accused the government of spreading misinformation through media channels.

Meanwhile, Bratya Basu criticised the Prime Minister, calling his communication style a "monologue" rather than a dialogue.

Army conducts flood relief exercise 'Jal Rahat'

GUWAHATI

The Indian Army carried out Exercise Jal Rahat at IIT Guwahati to improve flood response and coordination among agencies. The exercise was led by the Red Horns Division of Gajraj Corps and included teams from the National Disaster Response Force, State Disaster Response Force, and Sashastra Seema Bal.

The exercise focused on handling flood emergencies using modern technology and teamwork. Rescue operations were demonstrated through simulated real-life situations, including the use of drones for surveillance and supply delivery, and evacuation of stranded and drowning people.

Special teams from the Army, NDRF, and SDRF also displayed their skills in deep-water rescue operations. The event highlighted strong coordination and teamwork among different agencies during disaster situations.

Around 800 people, including officials, students, NCC and NSS cadets, attended the exercise. Senior officers from the Army and state administration were also present.

Lt Gen Neeraj Shukla, General Officer Commanding of Gajraj Corps, reviewed the preparedness of the teams.

India hosts first BRICS Academic Forum for Co-op

NEW DELHI

Observer Research Foundation (ORF), along with Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), held the first BRICS Academic Forum in New Delhi on April 17 and 18. The event is part of India's BRICS Chairship for 2026, which began on January 1 with the theme of resilience, innovation, cooperation, and sustainability.

Speaking at the event, Samir Saran said that global challenges like conflicts, food shortages, and supply disruptions make cooperation among BRICS nations more important than ever. He also shared plans for the forum, which will include multiple meetings and international speakers in the coming months.

Sudhakar Dalela, Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, said 2026 marks 20 years of BRICS. He described it as a key platform for cooperation among emerging economies and said India's leadership focuses on people and development.

He added that the Academic Forum will act as a platform for experts, scholars, and policymakers to share ideas and suggest policies before the BRICS Summit. Discussions during the two-day event focused on global challenges, economic cooperation, and the role of BRICS in shaping the world order.

Participants included experts and representatives from research institutions across BRICS countries. The forum aims to support policy-making through research papers and expert views, which will be shared with national leaders.

The initiative is expected to strengthen cooperation among BRICS nations and promote inclusive growth and stability in the coming years.

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕೆ.ಆರ್. ವೃತ್ತ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 080-22112809
ಸಂ.ಕಾ.ಇ೦(ವಿ)/ಲೋ.ಇ/ವಿದ್ಯುತ್/2026-27/79 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16.04.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ವಿದ್ಯುತ್), ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇವರ ವತಿಯಿಂದ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯನ್ನು **KW-3 STD** ಪರತ್ತುಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟಂತೆ ಮೊದಲನೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯನ್ನು ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಮೂಲಕ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ವಿವರ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿವೆ.

Sl. No.	Work Indents	Work Value (Rs. in Lakhs)
1	Providing LAN Connection to Court building at Chikkamagalur PWD/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT 34712.	63.55

ಮೇಲಿನ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಇಚ್ಛಿಸುವವರು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 13.04.2026 ರಿಂದ 28.04.2026, 16:00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ** ಹಾಗೂ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಹಿಂತಿರುಗಿಸುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 28.04.2026 ರಂದೆ 16:00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ** ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು **Karnataka Public Procurement Portal** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು(ವಿ).
ವಾಸಾಸಂ೦ಇ/ಉನಿ-ಸಿ.ಪಿ/260/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026-27

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜನೀಯರರು,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ ವಿಜಯಪುರ.
ಐ.ಎಫ್.ಟಿ.ಸಂ: ಕಾ.ನಿ.ಇಂ./ಲೋ.ಇ/ಬಿ.ಜೆ.ಪಿ/ಪಿ.ಬಿ/ವಿವಿಧ ಲೆಕ್ಕ-ಶಿರ್ಷಿಕೆ/2026-27/130 ದಿನಾಂಕ:17.04.2026

ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಹ್ವಾನ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್)

ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರರು ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ, ವಿಜಯಪುರ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆಗಳನ್ನು ಇ-ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟನಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಣಿ ಮತ್ತು ನವೀಕರಣ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಪತ್ರದ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಗೆಜೆಟೆಡ್ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಯಿಂದ ಪ್ರಮಾಣೀಕರಿಸಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನೊಂದಿಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು ಮತ್ತು ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಸ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಟೆಂಡರ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲೂ - 1 & 2 ರಲ್ಲಿ ವಿವಿಧ ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿನ ಒಟ್ಟು ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಒಟ್ಟು 5 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆಯನ್ನು ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಗರಿಷ್ಟ ಹಾಗೂ ಕನಿಷ್ಟ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ಅನುಕ್ರಮವಾಗಿ ರೂ. 58.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು & 10.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಗರಿಷ್ಟ ಹಾಗೂ ಕನಿಷ್ಟ ಮುಂಗಡ ಠೇವಣಿ ಮೊತ್ತ 1,16,000.00/- ರೂ.ಗಳು. & 25,000.00/- ರೂ.ಗಳು. ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಅವಧಿಯು ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ವಿಳಂಭದಿಂದ ಉಂಟಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಆ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಜಿ.ಎಸ್.ಟಿ ದರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಳವಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಇದನ್ನು ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರೇ ಭರಿಸುವದು. 1) ಟೆಂಡರಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:- 02.05.2026 ಮದ್ಯಾನ್ಹ 1.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ, 2) ಟೆಂಡರಗಳ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬೀಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 04-05-2026 ಮದ್ಯಾನ್ಹ 1.31 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಬೇಕಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿದವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಅಂತರ್ ಜಾಲದ ಮೂಲಕ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ವಿಳಾಸ www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in ರಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ, ವಿಜಯಪುರ
ವಾಸಾಸಂ೦ಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/47/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026-27

BJP women members hit streets against Oppn over bill blocking

NEW DELHI

The protest took place at Sunehri Bagh, where several BJP MPs, including Hema Malini, Kamaljeet Sehrawat, Bansuri Swaraj, Manju Sharma, and Vatsalya Gupta, took part. They accused Opposition parties of "humiliating" women by defeating the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill in the Lok Sabha.

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, state BJP president Virendra Sachdeva, Union Minister Raksha Khadse, and MP Manoj Tiwari also joined the protest along with party workers.

As the protesters tried to march toward Gandhi's residence, police used water cannons to disperse the crowd, officials said.

Addressing the gathering at Moti Lal Nehru Marg, Hema Malini said it was a "sad day" and accused the Opposition of lacking confidence in women's leadership. She added that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had worked hard to pass the bill, but it was blocked.

The bill aimed to introduce reservation for women in legislatures from 2029 and increase Lok Sabha seats. It received 298 votes in favour and 230 against, falling short of the required 352 votes for a two-thirds majority.

Opposition parties, including the Indian National Congress.

CBI busts digital arrest scam, 3 arrested

NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Saturday carried out raids at five locations in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana in connection with a "digital arrest" fraud case. Three persons, including a bank official, were arrested during the operation.

The case involves cheating a senior citizen who was forced to transfer over Rs 1.6 crore after being threatened with a fake "digital arrest".

The accused were identified as Dubbaka Mahesh, a former assistant manager at IndusInd Bank, along with Rajesh Kanna and Vayala Srinivas.

According to officials, the defrauded money was routed through a bank account opened in the name of a company to receive illegal funds. Investigators found that the account was used to transfer money across multiple channels to hide its source.

The CBI arrested the bank official for allegedly helping in opening the fraudulent account, while the other accused were involved in arranging mule accounts and handling the movement of funds.

During searches, officials seized documents and electronic devices, which are now being examined for further investigation.

The agency said it will take strict action against those who misuse banking systems to support cybercrime. It also issued a warning to the public about scams involving threats like "digital arrest", clarifying that no such legal concept exists.

People were advised to stay alert against fake calls claiming to be from police or authorities and report any suspicious activity through the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal or nearby police stations.

Mysuru City Corporation, Mysuru
Office of the Executive Engineer, Electrical Division, VVWW Campus, K.R.S Main Road, Yadavagiri, Mysuru-570020.
TN No: MCC/EE-ELE/TN-01/10/2026-27 Date: 09.04.2026

Tender Notification-01
Through Karnataka Public-Procurement Portal Only

Tenders are invited through Karnataka Public-Procurement Portal for the works under General Fund: 2026-27 grant as required from Executive Engineer (Electrical) of the Mysuru City Corporation. Details are as follows:

Sl. No	Description	Total Works	Tender Amount (INR)	Date of Publishing on KPP-Portal	Last Date for Submission of Bids	Technical/Financial Bid opening Date
1	Tender Works (KW-1)	04	17.075	09.04.2026	17.04.2026	18.04.2026
2	Re Tender Works (KW-1	02	19.63			
3	Re Tender Works (KW-2)	02	93.72			
4	EOI Works	01	-			

Note: Any further changes/notifications will be published only through Karnataka Public-Procurement portal only and will not release any paper notification.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Electrical),
Mysuru City Corporation, Mysuru.
DIPR/MYSORE/73/SSC/2026-27

ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಹೊಸಕೋಟೆ
ಹೊಸಕೋಟೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ-562114,
ದೂರವಾಣಿ:-27931221, ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ: 27931759
Email:-itstaff_ulb_hosakote@yahoo.com Website: www.hosakotecity.mrc.gov.in
ನಂ.ನಸಹೊ/ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಶಾಖೆ/ಮ.ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಸಿಆರ್/03/2026-27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 18.04.2026

"ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ" (ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆ.ಟಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ)

ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು ನಗರಸಭೆ ಹೊಸಕೋಟೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಇವರಿಂದ 2025-26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಯವರ ಮೂಲ ಸೌಕರ್ಯ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ (CMIDP) ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್ 01/02/03 ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಏಕ/ದ್ವಿ-ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಡಿ ಅರ್ಹ ದರ್ಜೆಯ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಕ್ರ ಸಂ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)
	ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ವರ್ಗದವರಿಗೆ ಕಾಯ್ದಿರಿಸಲಾದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು	
01	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT53607/CALL-2	32.00
02	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT53590/CALL-2	27.00
03	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT53606/CALL-2	36.00

1) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ **02.05.2026** ರ ಸಂಜೆ **5.30** ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ **04.05.2026** ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ **11.00** ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ನಿಗಧಿ ಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. 2) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home** ನಿಂದ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/- ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು
ವಾಸಾಸಂ೦ಇ/ವಾ.ಪ್ರ/ಶಿರಡಿಸಾಯಿ/244/2026-27 **ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಹೊಸಕೋಟೆ.**

TERROR CALL

Pahalgam attack anniversary sparks call for action

SRINAGAR

Junaid Qureshi has called for strong action against terrorism as Kashmir marked one year since the deadly Pahalgam attack on tourists.

The April 22, 2025 attack at Baisaran Valley left 26 civilians dead after terrorists opened fire on visitors. The attack was later claimed by Lashkar-e-Taiba and its offshoot, The Resistance Front.

Qureshi described the incident as a targeted act of violence and said people across Kashmir continue to express grief and concern. He alleged that such attacks are backed by external forces and warned that they aim to disturb peace and development in Jammu and Kashmir.

He also highlighted the economic impact, stating that the tourism sector has suffered heavy losses.

Many local businesses linked to tourism have been affected, leading to job losses and reduced investment in the region.

Referring to India's response, Qureshi mentioned changes in bilateral relations and operations like Operation Sindoor, stressing that India would act firmly against terror infrastructure if needed.

At the same time, he urged people in Kashmir to take collective responsibility in rejecting extremist ideas. He said Kashmiris must clearly show that they do not support such ideologies or actions.

Qureshi also warned about the ongoing risk of radicalisation, pointing to later incidents, including a blast near the Red Fort in November 2025. Calling for stronger steps, he said simply condemning attacks is not enough. He urged people to openly oppose terrorism and isolate those who promote violence. He ended with a strong message, asking Kashmiris to stand united and say such acts are not done in their name.

QUICK READ

Union Cabinet approves 2% DA DR hike

New Delhi
The Union Cabinet on Saturday approved a 2 per cent increase in Dearness Allowance (DA) and Dearness Relief (DR), benefiting around 50.46 lakh central government employees and 68.27 lakh pensioners. The hike will be effective from January 1, 2026, raising the rate from 58 per cent of basic pay and pension. Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the decision will cost the government Rs 6,791.24 crore annually and follows the 7th Pay Commission formula to offset rising prices.

Kerala village mourns death of 9 in accident

Malappuram
A wave of grief swept a village in Kerala as the bodies of nine people killed in a road accident in Tamil Nadu were brought back on Saturday. The victims, linked to a local government school, had travelled together but returned in ambulances after post-mortem in Pollachi. The bodies were kept for public tribute at a nearby school, where students, staff, and villagers gathered in tears. Many broke down, highlighting the deep loss felt by the close-knit community.

CBI Busts Digital Arrest Syndicate, Three Arrested

New Delhi
CBI raids expose cyber fraud network, arrests three accused including bank official, warns public against rising "digital arrest" scam tactics.
The Central Bureau of Investigation conducted raids at five locations across Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, arresting three persons involved in a "digital arrest" scam.
The accused include an assistant manager of IndusInd Bank.
The action followed directions from the Supreme Court, highlighting a strict stance against cybercrime. The case involves a senior citizen who was forced to transfer over ₹1.6 crore after being threatened with fake legal action.
Officials said scammers used a tactic called "digital arrest", where victims are kept under constant video surveillance and pressured to pay money. The arrested bank official allegedly helped open a corporate account used to collect the stolen funds.

Gehlot slams FIR order against Rahul Gandhi

He criticised HC directive for FIR against Rahul, calling allegations baseless and questioning the need for fresh probe

JAIPUR

Former Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Saturday criticised the Allahabad High Court's order to file an FIR against Congress MP Rahul Gandhi in an alleged dual citizenship case, calling it surprising and unwarranted.

He said the directive places an unnecessary burden on the executive despite earlier court rulings dismissing similar claims.Gehlot pointed out that such petitions were rejected by the Allahabad High Court in July 2025 and also by the Supreme Court in 2019.

He questioned the need for a fresh probe into what he described as baseless allegations regarding British citizenship.

The Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court on Friday ordered the filing of an FIR based on a petition by a BJP worker, S Vignesh Shishir from Karnataka. The petitioner claimed Rahul Gandhi held British citizenship and had incorporated a company, M/S Backops Ltd, registered in August 2003. He also alleged that Gandhi declared himself a British national and provided London and Hampshire addresses.

The complaint was first filed in a special MP/MLA court in Rae Bareli. Later, it was transferred to a similar court in Lucknow, which dismissed the plea on January 28. The petitioner then moved the high court, leading to the latest order.

Defending Gandhi, Gehlot highlighted his family's contributions to the nation. He said Rahul Gandhi's father Rajiv Gandhi and grandmother Indira Gandhi sacrificed their lives for the country, while Jawaharlal Nehru spent years in jail during the freedom struggle. Gehlot added that Rahul has worked to promote unity and harmony, making the action against him unfortunate.

Rijiju blames Cong for women's bill defeat

NEW DELHI

Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on Saturday said the failure of the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026, was not a setback for the Centre but a major loss caused by Congress and its allies. He stated that the Bill, which aimed to provide 33 per cent reservation for women, could not pass due to lack of Opposition support.The Bill failed to secure the required two-thirds majority in the Lok Sabha, receiving 278 votes in favour and 211 against after a full-day debate. Following this, the government decided not to proceed with related delimitation proposals.Rijiju expressed disappointment, saying the defeat was a loss for women across the country. He accused Congress and other Opposition parties of blocking an important reform that would have increased women's representation in Parliament and state assemblies. He added that such actions could invite public anger, especially from women.

Union Minister Kiren Rijiju blamed Opposition parties for defeat of Women's Reservation Bill in Parliament vote

Criticising the Opposition further, Rijiju said celebrating the Bill's failure showed an anti-women mindset. He maintained that the government had made all possible efforts to pass the legislation through discussions and meetings with various parties. However, he claimed that Congress leaders did not actively participate in these discussions and instead raised objections later.

COPS BUST RADICAL MODULE LINKED TO RED FORT BLAST

NEW DELHI

Delhi Police on Saturday busted a multi-state radical module and arrested four youths allegedly involved in online radicalisation and terror planning. Officials said the group aimed to recruit members and establish an Islamic state through extremist activities.Police claimed that the investigation revealed a possible link to a past Red Fort blast that killed 11 people and injured several others. One accused had visited the Red Fort and other sensitive locations in December 2025 and shared edited images to influence others.

The arrests were made by the Special Cell from Maharashtra, Odisha and Bihar. An FIR has been registered under relevant sections of the law. Authorities recovered material used to prepare Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), along with mobile phones containing evidence.

Investigators said the accused were active on encrypted social media platforms, where they spread extremist content and recruited youth. Two members were collecting materials to build a remote-controlled IED using a toy car for possible attacks.

Police said the group used different roles, including collecting funds, arranging weapons training and sharing instructions. One accused reportedly shared bank details to raise money, while others circulated images of explosives and related items.

Officials added that the accused had discussed targeting key locations such as the Ram temple, Parliament and military installations to create panic. The group's activities were closely monitored before the coordinated arrests were made.

TMC moves ECI against Assam CM

KOLKATA

The Trinamool Congress on Saturday approached the Election Commission of India, accusing Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma of making derogatory and divisive remarks against West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee during the ongoing election campaign.

In its complaint, the party referred to a speech delivered by Sarma at a rally in Cooch Behar district. It alleged that he made inappropriate comments regarding Banerjee's concerns over food habits if the BJP comes to power in the state. According to the Trinamool Congress, such remarks were misleading and aimed at creating confusion among voters.

The party further claimed that Sarma made unverified and inflammatory allegations about the Muslim community, including claims about beef trade activities in certain areas. It stated that these comments were intended to create fear, mistrust and division among different religious groups in West Bengal.

In its letter submitted to the office of the Chief Electoral Officer, the Trinamool Congress said that such statements could disturb peace and affect the smooth conduct of elections. It warned that such rhetoric may lead to tension and law and order issues if not addressed immediately.

The ruling party requested the Election Commission to take strict action against Sarma and the BJP. It urged the poll body to issue a show-cause notice and hold them accountable for the alleged violations.

Additionally, the party demanded that police authorities be directed to register a First Information Report against the Assam Chief Minister. It stressed that strong action was necessary to prevent the spread of communal tension and to ensure free and fair elections in the state.

Rahul targets Modi over US-TN politics

NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday launched a strong attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, accusing him of being influenced by United States leadership and interfering in Tamil Nadu politics.

Speaking at an election rally, Gandhi criticised the Prime Minister's behaviour in Parliament during discussions on the delimitation bill. He claimed that Modi appeared lacking confidence and avoided facing the Opposition during the session. Gandhi alleged that this was due to external influence from the United States.

He further claimed that India's interests had been compromised through agreements with the US. According to him, key sectors such as energy, data security, farmers and small industries had been weakened due to government decisions. He accused the Centre of failing to protect national interests.

Escalating his remarks, Gandhi made personal allegations linking the Prime Minister with former US President Donald Trump. He claimed that Modi was being fully controlled by Trump and suggested that such influence affected India's leadership decisions. Gandhi also alleged that this control was linked to sensitive financial information and connections involving business interests.

Turning his focus to Tamil Nadu, the Congress leader accused the Prime Minister of trying to influence state politics.

He alleged that the Centre was attempting to bring the AIADMK to power in the state by exerting control similar to what he claimed existed at the national level.

Udhayanidhi slams Centre, promises welfare boost

Erode
Tamil Nadu Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin on Saturday accused the Centre of denying the state its rightful funds and powers, while announcing an expanded welfare agenda ahead of the Assembly elections.

Speaking at a campaign rally in Gobichettipalayam, he alleged that the Union government had withheld around ₹3,000 crore meant for the state's education sector. He said such actions showed discrimination against states not ruled by the BJP.

Udhayanidhi also criticised the proposed delimitation exercise, stating that Chief Minister M.K. Stalin was the first to oppose it. He claimed that the Opposition INDIA bloc played a key role in defeating the related Bill in Parliament.

Highlighting government schemes, he promised to expand welfare measures if the DMK returns to power. He said the Kalaignar Magalir Urimai Thogai scheme would be increased from ₹1,000 to ₹2,000 per month, benefiting over 1.3 crore women.

He also announced that the breakfast scheme for government school students would be extended up to Class VIII to improve nutrition and attendance. Additionally, he promised free laptops for more than 35 lakh college students under a revived scheme.

Introducing a new proposal, he spoke about the 'Illatharasi' scheme, which would provide ₹8,000 coupons to eligible women for purchasing household items.

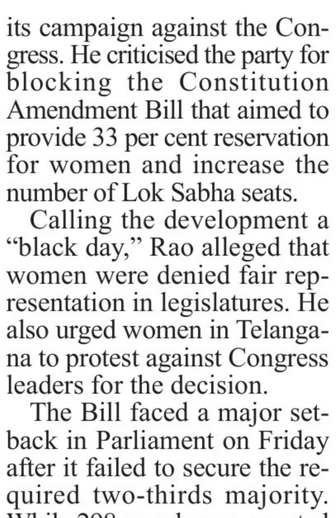
NCW seeks strict action in Amravati exploitation case

NEW DELHI

The National Commission for Women (NCW) has raised serious concern over the circulation of obscene videos involving young girls in Maharashtra's Amravati district and directed authorities to ensure their removal from online platforms.

During a high-level review meeting on April 17, NCW Chairperson Vijaya Rahatkar assessed the progress of the investigation. So far, Amravati police have arrested eight people in connection with the case, which came to light on April 11 after objectionable videos surfaced online.

Officials said the case involves exploitation of multiple victims, with content allegedly recorded and shared through digital platforms. The situation has raised concerns about misuse of technology and the safety of victims.



Rahatkar questioned whether strict legal provisions were being properly applied and sought clarity on gaps between media reports and recovered evidence. The case has been registered under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, the POCSO Act and the Information Technology Act.She directed authorities to intensify efforts to trace all digital material and investigate possible financial or commercial angles. Officials were also asked to examine links between the accused and locations where the incidents occurred.

RAS RESULTS OUT

RPSC declares RAS final results, merit list

JAIPUR

The Rajasthan Public Service Commission (RPSC) on Saturday announced the final results of the Rajasthan Administrative Service (RAS) Recruitment 2024, completing the selection process for 1,096 posts across the state.

Candidates can check their results on the official website. Dinesh Bishnoi from Barmer secured the top rank, showing steady improvement from earlier attempts. He had earlier ranked 948th in 2021 and 57th in the previous exam, and is currently undergoing training in the Rajasthan Police Service. His father, Ramdhan Manju, is a retired District Education Officer.

Virendra Charan from Jaisalmer secured the second rank. He belongs to Rampuriya village in Pokaran and is currently serving as a Tehsildar. His father, Jethudan Charan, works as a Head Constable in the police department.

The Commission also released a merit list of 2,391 candidates after completing interviews on April 17. The recruitment process included three stages — Preliminary Examination, Main Examination and Interview. Candidates who cleared the preliminary stage appeared for the mains, followed by interviews conducted in phases starting April 1, 2025.With the final phase of interviews completed, the selection process has now officially ended. Candidates were selected based on merit, making inclusion in the list a major achievement. The RAS exam is considered one of the most prestigious competitive exams in Rajasthan.

Many successful candidates expressed happiness over their achievement and thanked their families and teachers for support.

'Telangana BJP chief under house arrest'

HYDERABAD

Telangana BJP on Saturday alleged that its state president N Ramchander Rao was placed under house arrest ahead of a planned protest at Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's residence.

The party said the protest was called to oppose the Congress over the defeat of the Women's Reservation Bill in Parliament. According to BJP leaders, police action was taken to prevent the demonstration, and photographs of the situation were shared on social media.

Despite the restrictions, Rao said the party would continue its campaign against the Congress. He criticised the party for blocking the Constitution Amendment Bill that aimed to provide 33 per cent reservation for women and increase the number of Lok Sabha seats.

Calling the development a "black day," Rao alleged that women were denied fair representation in legislatures. He also urged women in Telangana to protest against Congress leaders for the decision.

The Bill faced a major setback in Parliament on Friday after it failed to secure the required two-thirds majority. While 298 members supported it, 230 voted against it.

QUICK READ

GCC chief praises UAE role in IMO resolution

Riyad

The Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council commended the United Arab Emirates for its influential role in securing the adoption of a key resolution at the International Maritime Organization Legal Committee. He highlighted that the resolution reflects strong international cooperation and addresses critical legal aspects of maritime operations, including safety, compliance, and dispute resolution. The GCC chief welcomed the content of the resolution, noting that it aligns with regional and global efforts to strengthen maritime governance and legal frameworks. He emphasized that the UAE's diplomatic engagement and leadership were instrumental in achieving consensus among member states, reinforcing its standing as a proactive player in international maritime affairs and legal cooperation.

CTA raises concern over Tibetan prisoner case

Dharamsala

The Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) has highlighted the case of Tibetan political prisoner Tsultrim Gyaltsen ahead of his expected release in 2026. The CTA expressed concern over his prolonged imprisonment and reported treatment during detention, saying it reflects wider issues faced by Tibetan political detainees. It urged continued international attention to human rights conditions in the region and greater transparency in such cases. The CTA noted that Gyaltsen's case has drawn advocacy from rights groups over the years. While welcoming his expected release, it stressed that true freedom must include dignity, safety, and an end to post-release restrictions.

US extends waiver for Russian oil purchases

US has extended a one-month sanctions waiver allowing countries to receive Russian oil already in transit, aiming to prevent global supply disruptions.

WASHINGTON

The United States has extended a sanctions waiver allowing countries to purchase petroleum products from Russia for an additional month, reversing earlier indications that the exemption would not be renewed.

The US Department of the Treasury announced that the waiver applies to Russian oil already loaded on vessels on or before April 17 and permits its transit and delivery until May 16. The move provides temporary relief to global markets reliant on existing shipments.

Previously, the United States had issued a short-term exemption beginning March 5, initially allowing select countries, including India, to continue purchasing

Russian oil under limited conditions. That waiver, along with similar permissions for other countries, had expired in early April.

The updated general licence clarifies that transactions involving entities linked to Iran, North Korea, Cuba, or certain regions of Ukraine remain prohibited. The Treasury emphasized that the waiver is limited in scope and does not signal a broader easing of sanctions policy.

The decision follows earlier statements from US Treasury officials indicating that Washington would not extend special exemptions for Russian and Iranian oil. However, the latest extension reflects concerns over global supply stability and the need to manage oil already in transit.

Analysts note that the waiver impacts an estimated volume of oil already at sea, helping prevent sudden supply disruptions in international markets amid ongoing geopolitical tensions.

Overall, the extension underscores the balancing act between sanctions enforcement and global energy market stability, as the United States continues to use targeted financial measures while avoiding immediate shocks to crude oil supply chains worldwide.

Australia-Japan seal $6.5B warship deal

MELBOURNE

Australia and Japan have signed a major defence agreement worth USD 6.5 billion to supply and co-produce advanced Mogami-class frigates, marking a significant step in bilateral military cooperation.

Under the deal, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries will construct the first three of ten planned frigates in Japan, with delivery expected to begin within three years. The remaining eight vessels will be built in Western Australia, strengthening Australia's domestic shipbuilding capacity.

The signing ceremony was attended by Japanese Defence Minister Shinjiro Koizumi and Australian Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Richard Marles aboard the JS Kumano, a Mogami-class frigate of the Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force, docked near Melbourne.

Australia selected the Japanese bid over competing European designs, citing faster delivery timelines, reduced crew requirements,

Both the countries will co-produce advanced Mogami-class frigates, marking a significant step in bilateral military cooperation

and advanced capabilities suited for modern maritime threats. The new fleet will replace Australia's ageing ANZAC-class frigates, which are considered less effective against emerging missile and drone technologies.

Officials said the first frigate is expected to enter service by 2029, with the programme representing the fastest introduction of surface combat vessels into the Royal Australian Navy in its history.

The Mogami-class ships are designed for multi-role operations, including air defence, anti-ship warfare, and helicopter deployment, while requiring significantly fewer personnel to operate compared to older platforms.

Japan described the agreement as a major expansion of defence cooperation with Australia, which it now views as a key strategic partner alongside its alliance with the United States.

The deal also reflects Japan's growing push to expand defence exports and deepen security ties in the Indo-Pacific region amid rising geopolitical tensions.

Farmers across Pakistan have launched nationwide protests opposing corporate farming reforms, demanding protection for small landholders and livelihoods.

Pakistan farmers oppose government push for corporate farming

ISLAMABAD

Nationwide protests have erupted across Pakistan as farmers oppose the government's push for corporate farming, saying the policy threatens small landholders and rural livelihoods.

Demonstrations were reported in multiple provinces including Punjab and Sindh where farmers blocked roads and staged sit-ins demanding withdrawal of the proposed agricultural reforms.

Protesters argue that corporate farming initiatives could lead to land concentration in the hands of large investors leaving small farmers economically vulnerable and further deepening rural inequality.

Farmer unions have called for broader consultations and

transparency in policymaking urging the government to prioritize food security and local agricultural sustainability over large-scale commercial farming models.

Authorities have responded by deploying security forces in some areas while claiming the reforms are aimed at modernizing agriculture and improving productivity.

However tensions continue to rise as protests spread to rural districts with leaders warning of sustained agitation if demands are not addressed.

Observers say the unrest reflects growing frustration among rural communities over perceived exclusion from major economic decision making processes related to agriculture reform policies.

Analysts note that Pakistan's agricultural sector remains highly fragmented and dependent on small landholdings making large-scale corporate entry a sensitive political issue nationwide.

The government maintains that private sector involvement is necessary to boost investment improve yields and ensure food security in the long term but opposition groups remain unconvinced demanding immediate rollback of the policy framework and protection for small farmers livelihoods.

Protests are expected to continue across rural belts in coming days with unions planning coordinated nationwide demonstrations if negotiations fail to progress meaningfully intensify further soon.

Pak, Saudi, Turkey, Egypt FMs meet in Antalya

ISLAMABAD

Foreign ministers of Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Egypt held their third consultative meeting in Antalya to strengthen cooperation and discuss regional developments.

The meeting took place on the sidelines of the Antalya Diplomacy Forum, bringing together Pakistan's Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan, and Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty.

According to a statement from Pakistan's Foreign Office, the ministers reaffirmed their commitment to expanding collaboration in areas of mutual interest, while also emphasizing the importance of sustained dialogue and diplomacy in addressing regional challenges.

The discussions also focused on evolving geopolitical dynamics, with participants highlighting the need for coordinated efforts to promote peace, stability, and economic cooperation across their respective regions.

Officials noted that this meeting continues a series of engagements between the four countries, following earlier rounds held in Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, as well as a senior officials' meeting in Islamabad.

The dialogue comes at a time of heightened regional tensions, particularly in West Asia, where diplomatic initiatives are ongoing to manage conflicts and reduce economic disruptions. The group also acknowledged the importance of building structured cooperation frameworks to address shared concerns.

Pakistan's leadership reportedly encouraged the formation of a formal partnership mechanism among the four countries to strengthen coordination on political, economic, and development issues.

French soldier killed in Lebanon attack: Macron

PARIS

A French soldier serving with international forces in southern Lebanon has been killed, President Emmanuel Macron said, attributing the incident to a suspected attack by the Iran-backed Hezbollah group. Three other soldiers were injured and evacuated for medical treatment. Macron announced the development in a post on X, expressing concern over the escalation and urging the Lebanese government to take action against those responsible. The troops were part of multinational deployments in the region. The incident has heightened tensions amid ongoing security challenges in southern Lebanon and raised calls for restraint and accountability from involved parties and international partners there.

World Uyghur Congress condemns Malaysia deportation case

MUNICH

The World Uyghur Congress has strongly condemned the deportation of a Uyghur activist from Malaysia, calling the move a serious violation of human rights and international protection norms.

It said the deportation raises concerns over due process, non-refoulement obligations, and the safety of Uyghur individuals facing persecution in various countries.

The organization urged Malaysian authorities to review the case and ensure that no individual is sent to a country where they may face arbitrary detention or mistreatment.

It also called on the international community to strengthen protections for ethnic minorities and to hold governments accountable for forced deportations that may violate international law.

Human rights groups have repeatedly warned that Uyghur activists and asylum seekers face heightened risks of deportation from countries maintaining security cooperation with China.

They have urged clearer international guidelines to ensure protection of vulnerable groups under refugee and asylum frameworks.

The World Uyghur Congress reiterated that deportations of Uyghur individuals should be halted until independent assessments guarantee their safety upon return.

The case has drawn renewed attention to Malaysia's deportation policies and broader debates on human rights obligations in cross-border security arrangements.

Advocates say the incident underscores ongoing tensions between migration enforcement and international protection standards for stateless or persecuted communities.

Mandelson scandal deepens pressure on Starmer leadership

LONDON

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer is facing renewed political pressure after fresh revelations surrounding the appointment of Peter Mandelson as UK ambassador to the United States, raising questions about government transparency and parliamentary accountability.

The controversy has intensified following reports that Mandelson was initially denied security clearance before being appointed, despite Starmer telling Parliament that full due process had been followed. The discrepancy has triggered allegations that the Prime Minister may have misled lawmakers.

The issue has already led to the resignation of a senior Foreign Office official, further deepening the political fallout. Starmer has said he was not informed of key aspects of the vetting process and described the situation as "staggering" and "unforgivable," promising to address Parliament directly.

Mandelson, a senior political figure with a long history in UK politics, was appointed amid expectations that his diplomatic and trade experience would strengthen relations with the United States. However, his past associations and prior controversies have repeatedly resurfaced, complicating his tenure.

The situation has escalated into a broader debate about political judgment, with critics arguing that the appointment reflects serious lapses in oversight. Opposition leaders have accused the government of losing credibility, while members within Starmer's own party are reportedly concerned about reputational damage.

Analysts note that the controversy is particularly sensitive for Starmer, who built his political platform on integrity and adherence to rules. The unfolding situation now risks undermining that narrative at a critical time for his leadership.

A parliamentary statement is expected, with growing speculation over whether the crisis could further weaken internal support within the ruling party if dissatisfaction continues to rise.

SU DO KU

Brain-Bender: Can You Solve It?

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8	9	2	3	6	1	4	5	7
7	1	6	4	2	5	3	9	8

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

Fill a 9×9 grid with numbers so that each row, column and 3×3 section contain all of the digits between 1 and 9.

SRI LANKA TOURISM

Sri Lanka tourism drops amid West Asia conflict impact

COLOMBO

Tourist arrivals in Sri Lanka declined sharply in March due to disruptions caused by the ongoing conflict in West Asia, according to the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (SLTDA).

After strong inflows in January and February, with over 277,000 and 279,000 arrivals respectively, the country saw a significant fall in March to 183,979 visitors.

Officials attributed the decline mainly to the war in the Gulf and Middle East region, which disrupted key transit routes and travel plans.

The SLTDA said that disruptions at major transit hubs affected international connectivity, leading to reduced tourist movement, particularly from long-haul markets dependent on Middle Eastern flight connections.

Despite the overall decline, India remained Sri Lanka's

largest source of tourists in March, contributing 47,533 arrivals and holding a 25.8% market share. The report highlighted that India's proximity and strong air connectivity helped sustain steady travel flows.

The United Kingdom ranked second with 18,092 arrivals, followed by Russia and China. Officials noted that India's direct flight network, which avoids transit through Middle Eastern hubs, provided a significant advantage during the regional crisis.

The SLTDA also stated that India has now emerged as a stable and high-volume short-haul market for Sri Lanka, helping partially offset declines from Europe and other affected regions.

Overall, the tourism authority emphasized that while external geopolitical tensions have impacted travel patterns, strong regional connectivity—particularly with India—continues to play a crucial role in supporting Sri Lanka's tourism recovery.

QUICK READ

North region airports drive traffic also face fog

New Delhi

North India handles nearly 30 percent of the country's air passenger traffic, an Airports Authority of India official said. The region also manages about 26 percent of aircraft movements, showing its growing importance. Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport remains the busiest hub. However, winter fog continues to disrupt flights, causing delays and cancellations, especially in early mornings. Officials use advanced landing systems, but very low visibility still creates problems. Meanwhile, airport expansion is underway in cities like Jodhpur, Udaipur, Leh, and Varanasi. Authorities are also improving passenger comfort and aiming for greener, more efficient airports by 2030.

India startup boom creates jobs and sets records

New Delhi

The government recognised over 55,200 startups in 2025-26, the highest yearly rise since Startup India began. Total recognised startups have crossed 2.23 lakh, creating more than 23.36 lakh direct jobs. Growth remained strong, with startups rising sharply and employment increasing across sectors. Leading hubs include Maharashtra, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, and Gujarat. Government schemes offering funding and credit support helped expansion at different stages. Startups also boosted innovation, filing thousands of patents during the year. Officials said efforts will continue to improve funding access, encourage entrepreneurship, and strengthen India's position as a global startup hub.

Small LPG cylinders see surge amid supply push

New Delhi

The government said over 17.25 lakh small 5 kg LPG cylinders have been sold since March 23, boosting access to cooking fuel. The move mainly supports migrant workers and low-income groups. Supply of these smaller cylinders has also been doubled in recent weeks. Officials said there is no shortage, with full supply of LPG, PNG, and CNG being maintained across the country. Awareness camps and strict checks have increased availability and reduced misuse. Authorities added that fuel supply remains stable, while port operations continue normally despite global tensions and ongoing monitoring.

Consumer Firms Set For Strong Quarter Growth

New Delhi

Consumer discretionary companies are likely to report strong growth in the March quarter, driven by improving demand, a report said. Revenue is expected to rise about 23 percent year-on-year, supported by recovery across sectors. Jewellery may lead with sharp gains, while apparel and paints could see steady growth. Food delivery businesses are also expected to remain stable. Profit margins may improve slightly due to better efficiency and higher sales. However, challenges like cost pressures and competition remain. Overall, the sector is showing signs of recovery after a period of weak demand and uncertainty.

'Indian states can attract more Asian investment'

Indian states are urged to court East Asian giants, turning regional ties into a multibillion-dollar windfall for national growth.

NEW DELHI

India's state governments are being urged to join forces with the central leadership to attract massive new investments from East Asian neighbors.

A recent report suggests that as global markets shift due to conflicts in the West, India has a golden opportunity to strengthen economic ties with nations like Japan, South Korea, and Vietnam.

The report highlights that while countries like Japan have already invested over $43 billion in India, there is still huge untapped potential. To capitalize on this, Japan recently created a special division dedicated to helping its companies expand into Indian markets. Currently, over 1,400 Japanese firms operate across states like Tamil Nadu and Gujarat, but officials believe this is just the beginning.

Individual states are already making big moves. Maharashtra recently secured a massive $8.5 billion deal with Vietnam's VinGroup. This partnership aims to build eco-friendly "smart townships" and boost renewable energy, potentially housing 200,000 people. Last year, Maharashtra alone brought in nearly 40 percent of all foreign investment entering India, proving that local efforts yield high rewards.

Other states are following suit. Gujarat recently signed a deal with a Taiwan-linked firm to create a specialized industrial park. Experts believe that if more states focus on modern infrastructure and green energy, India can become the primary hub for Asian business. By simplifying rules and building stronger relationships with ASEAN nations, Indian states can lead the country toward a new era of rapid economic growth and regional stability.

India strengthens trade ties with South Africa

NEW DELHI

Indian companies are targeting South Africa's Dube TradePort SEZ as a strategic manufacturing hub to boost exports and compete with global rivals across the continent.

India is looking to boost its economic presence in Africa by targeting new investment opportunities in South Africa's Dube TradePort Special Economic Zone (SEZ). As global competition heats up, Indian companies are viewing this logistics hub as a strategic gateway to scale up manufacturing and export operations across the continent.

The Dube TradePort is unique because it is the only South African economic zone integrated with an international airport. This location offers a massive advantage for industries that rely on quick exports, such as pharmaceuticals, electronics, and car parts. Indian giants like Mahindra and Cipla are already operating within the zone, proving that the partnership creates jobs and strengthens bilateral ties.

To attract more global players, the SEZ offers enticing benefits, including a low 15 percent corporate tax rate and ready to use industrial land. A massive expansion is also underway, adding over 700 hectares to the site to accommodate more factories. This growth comes at a vital time as New Delhi keeps a close watch on new trade deals between China and Africa, which could shift the balance of regional trade.

For India, the focus is on staying competitive. By utilizing the SEZ's advanced infrastructure and customs-controlled areas, Indian firms can lower their costs and reach global markets faster. Experts believe that deepening this commercial bond will not only help India secure its footprint in Africa but also turn the Dube TradePort into a central pillar of India-South Africa economic cooperation for years to come.

Two state-owned tech bodies align to boost the Digital India mission through high-tech research and large-scale industrial innovation.

India tech giants join forces for digital future

NEW DELHI

Two of India's leading state-owned technology bodies have joined forces to fast-track the nation's digital growth. Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited (BECIL) and the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) signed a major agreement.

This partnership aims to revolutionize how the country uses advanced technology, including Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the high-speed 5G network.

Under this new deal, both organizations will work together to create smart solutions for everyday problems. Their focus spans a wide range of modern tech, such as cyber security, cloud computing, and the "Internet of Things." By combining their expertise, they plan to build a "future-ready" digital system that helps both the government and private businesses operate more efficiently.

A major part of this mission involves people, not just machines. The agreement highlights "upskilling," which means training the workforce to handle these new technologies effectively. BECIL Chairman D.K. Murali explained that this teamwork will allow them to deliver more impactful digital services. Essentially, BECIL's experience in broadcasting and IT will blend with C-DAC's world-class research in supercomputing.

This collaboration is a significant step toward the government's "Digital India" vision. By sharing technology and commercializing new inventions, the two groups hope to spark innovation across the country. As the world moves faster into a tech-driven era, this alliance ensures that India remains a leader in digital transformation, making life easier and more secure for its citizens through modern innovation.

Rural road scheme extended until 2028

NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet has officially approved the extension of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-III (PMGSY-III), ensuring that rural road projects continue through March 2028.

To support this vital mission, the government has increased the total budget to ₹83,977 crore. This decision aims to finish upgrading thousands of kilometers of roads that link remote villages to essential services and larger markets.

The primary goal of the scheme is to connect rural homes to agricultural markets, high schools, and hospitals. By improving these major links, the government hopes to reduce travel time and transport costs for farmers and small business owners. Officials stated that better roads will directly boost the rural economy and help bridge the gap between village life and urban opportunities, aligning with the "Viksit Bharat 2047" vision.

In addition to roads, the Cabinet approved the construction of 161 long-span bridges, particularly in hilly areas where terrain makes travel difficult. The new timeline also allows projects sanctioned before March 2025 to finally move forward into the bidding and construction phases. This extension is expected to create a significant number of jobs in the construction sector and beyond.

Major rail projects approved for 2 states

NEW DELHI

The central government has greenlit two massive railway projects in Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh to boost travel and trade.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a meeting where officials approved a ₹24,815 crore plan. These projects will add about 601 kilometers of new tracks, helping trains move faster and more reliably through 15 different districts.

In Uttar Pradesh, a new 403-kilometer line will connect Ghaziabad and Sitapur. This ₹14,926 crore project is a vital link between northern and eastern India. It will pass through major industrial hubs known for electronics, brassware, and textiles. To keep trains moving smoothly, the new tracks will bypass several crowded stations, and six brand-new stations will be built. This will significantly cut down travel time for both passengers and heavy cargo like coal and cement.

In Andhra Pradesh, the government is investing ₹9,889 crore to expand the line between Rajahmundry and Visakhapatnam. This route runs along the busy eastern coastline and is essential for moving goods like iron, steel, and fertilizers. Expanding this section to four tracks will clear up traffic on one of the country's busiest rail corridors, making it easier for freight and passenger trains to share the space.

Beyond business, the new tracks will make it much easier for pilgrims and tourists to visit famous sites. From the Ganga Ghats in Garhmukteshwar to the historic temples in Annavaram, travel will become more accessible for millions. By improving these "high-density" networks, the government aims to strengthen India's economy and connect people more efficiently across the nation.

Govt approves major crop buyouts for farmers

NEW DELHI

In a major win for rural India, Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced a massive support package for farmers in three states.

The Central government will buy 20 lakh metric tonnes of potatoes from Uttar Pradesh to ensure prices don't crash. By fixing the price at ₹6,500.9 per metric tonne, the government is stepping in to make sure farmers earn a fair profit.

This move prevents "distress sales," where farmers are often forced to sell their crops at low prices just to get rid of them. The potato initiative alone will cost the government over ₹203 crore. Minister Chouhan emphasized that the goal is to protect every farmer from market swings. "No farmer should be forced to sell their hard work for less than it's worth," he stated, highlighting the government's commitment to stable incomes.

The relief also extends to South India. In Andhra Pradesh, the government increased the limit for buying Chana (chickpeas) to over 1.1 lakh metric tonnes. Meanwhile, in Karnataka, farmers growing Tur (pigeon pea) have been given extra time to sell their harvest to the government, with the deadline now extended to May 15. These steps provide a much-needed safety net for those growing pulses and legumes.

By coordinating closely with state leaders, the Ministry of Agriculture aims to create a more predictable and secure environment for farming. These interventions are designed to boost the rural economy and ensure that cultivation remains a reliable way of life. For millions of farming families, this weekend's announcement brings both financial security and peace of mind for the coming season.

Cabinet approves 2% pay hike boost

NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, announced a 2 percent increase in Dearness Allowance (DA) for central government employees.

This pay boost, backdated to January 1, 2026, is designed to help workers and pensioners keep up with the rising cost of living. With this change, the total allowance reaches 60 percent of basic pay.

This decision will put more money into the pockets of roughly 50.46 lakh employees and 68.27 lakh pensioners. The government expects this move to cost the national exchequer about ₹6,791.24 crore annually. While the 2 percent hike follows the standard rules of the 7th Pay Commission, it comes at a time when employees are hoping for much larger changes under the upcoming 8th Pay Commission.

Staff unions are currently pushing for a major overhaul of the entire salary system. A key proposal from the National Council–Joint Consultative Machinery (NC-JCM) suggests a much higher "multiplier" for salaries. If the government accepts these bold demands, the minimum basic pay could jump from ₹18,000 to nearly ₹69,000.

SMART ENERGY QUEST

India switches to data for ocean energy

NEW DELHI

India is moving away from "blind exploration" and embracing a high-tech, data-driven approach to find oil and gas beneath the sea.

Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri announced that the country is opening up its data to global experts to ensure energy security. The goal is to make underwater discovery faster, cheaper, and far more accurate than traditional methods.

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas recently met with major global players like BP, Shell, and ExxonMobil to discuss this shift. Under a new mission called "Samudra Manthan," India plans to map its vast offshore territories using advanced seismic data. Minister Puri emphasized that success depends on sharing knowledge rather than keeping it hidden. "The more eyes we have on the data, the greater the possibilities beneath our seas," he stated.

Industry leaders at the conference noted that high-quality data is the biggest factor in deciding where to dig. Currently, gaps in data for deep-water areas have made some investors hesitant. To fix this, the government is looking at "multi-client" models, where several companies share the costs and results of data collection. This collaborative spirit aims to turn the risky business of energy hunting into a precise science.

By adopting these modern tools and encouraging international partnerships, India hopes to unlock its massive offshore potential. The move is a key part of the nation's journey toward becoming self-reliant in energy. With better maps and smarter technology, India is ready to lead a new era of ocean-based discovery.

Sikkim's Temi tea sets new price record

GANGTOK

Sikkim's famous Temi Tea estate has reached a historic milestone this season. The estate's first flush organic tea was sold for a record-breaking price of 27,000 rupees per kilogram, according to an official announcement. This achievement highlights the growing global demand for high-quality, sustainably grown tea from the Himalayan region.

The "first flush" refers to the very first harvest of the year, picked when the tea leaves are at their most tender. Known for its delicate floral flavor and light, golden color, this specific harvest is considered the "champagne" of teas. Because of its superior quality and limited supply, it remains a favorite among collectors and tea enthusiasts in both Indian and international markets.

The record price was reached through a competitive open bidding process. Buyers showed incredible interest in the initial lots, and subsequent batches continue to draw strong attention. This success is a major win for the state-owned estate, which is currently busy harvesting fresh leaves to produce its premium varieties, including traditional orthodox black tea and smooth oolong tea.

For the workers and managers at Temi, this isn't just about the money, it's a validation of their dedication to organic farming. By avoiding chemicals and focusing on artisanal production, they have turned a local product into a world-class luxury. As the harvest season continues, the estate looks forward to maintaining this momentum, proving that Sikkim's green hills produce some of the finest treasures on earth.

Sarfaraz leads charge in bold Pakistan shakeup

Sarfaraz Ahmed leads a new-look coaching staff as Pakistan gears up for a crucial Test series against Bangladesh.

KARACHI

Pakistan cricket has entered a daring new era. In a move that surprised many fans, former captain Sarfaraz Ahmed has been named the head coach for the upcoming Test series against Bangladesh. Alongside him, veteran stars Asad Shafiq and Umar Gul join the coaching staff to mentor a squad looking for redemption.

Captain Shan Masood will lead a refreshed 16-man team as they fight to climb the World Test Championship ladder. Currently sitting in fifth place, Pakistan is desperate to improve their standing. To do this, they have injected fresh blood into the lineup by selecting four uncapped players like Abdullah Fazal, Amad Butt, Azan Awais, and Ghazi Ghori. These youngsters have dominated domestic cricket and now get their chance to shine on the world stage.

While new faces bring excitement, the team still relies on its legendary backbone. Cricket icons Babar Azam, Mohammad Rizwan, and pace spearhead Shaheen Shah Afridi remain central to Pakistan's hopes. This blend of raw energy and seasoned wisdom aims to overpower a Bangladesh side currently struggling in eighth place.

Preparations begin shortly with a focused training camp in Karachi on April 27. The first Test kicks off on May 8 at the Sher-e-Bangla Stadium, followed by a second clash in Sylhet on May 16. With Sarfaraz calling the shots from the dugout and a hunger for victory in the air, Pakistan fans are hopeful that this strategic shift will finally lead the team back to the top.

India vows stronger comeback after narrow defeat

DURBAN

India's vice-captain Smriti Mandhana remains optimistic despite a heartbreaking six-wicket loss to South Africa in the first T20I. While the defeat gives the hosts a 1-0 lead in the five-match series, Mandhana praised her team's fighting spirit for dragging the game into a tense final over at Kingsmead.

Smriti Mandhana praised India's resilience after a narrow T20I loss to South Africa, viewing the match as vital preparation for the upcoming T20 World Cup.

India's innings started with a bang thanks to Shafali Verma's aggressive batting. However, the momentum stalled mid-innings, and the team failed to post a dominant total. Mandhana admitted that the batting unit struggled to capitalize on their strong start, leaving them slightly short of a winning score. Despite this, she found great pride in how the bowlers responded after a shaky start to the second half.

"We came back really well," Mandhana noted, emphasizing that the players showed immense character to keep the contest alive until the very end. The match served as a vital wake-up call for the squad, who are returning to international action after a month-long break following their series against Australia. With the T20 World Cup beginning this June in England, these matches are crucial for finding the right rhythm. On a personal level, Mandhana was disappointed with her low score but felt energized to improve.

Cricketer slams Punjab officials over bribery claims

NEW DELHI

Former national-level cricketer Pulkit Sharma has sparked an intense public debate after claiming he was forced to pay massive bribes during a land deal in Punjab. In a viral social media post, Sharma detailed the "insane" corruption he encountered while trying to register a property, despite having all his legal documents in order.

Sharma alleged that his lawyer informed him that every official has a "fixed rate" for their services. He claimed he had to pay off a tehsildar and over two dozen other staff members just to keep his file moving. The athlete described the administration as "crooked" and stated that even though his land purchase was completely transparent, the system felt designed to stall anyone who refused to pay extra. He concluded by saying that investing in Punjab currently feels "criminal."

The post has divided the internet. While many users shared similar stories of government inefficiency and greed, others argued that paying bribes only fuels the problem. Some commenters claimed they successfully registered land without extra payments, suggesting that citizens should resist these demands.

However, Sharma stood by his words, explaining that brokers operate openly outside government offices. He claimed that officials intentionally show up late or create fake objections to pressure people into paying for faster service. This explosive allegation has put a spotlight on the state's land department, with many now calling for a serious investigation into these deeply entrenched and shameful practices.

Delhi Capitals defeated Royal Challengers Bengaluru by 6 wickets at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru on Saturday.

Sunrisers Hyderabad defeated Chennai Super Kings by 10 runs at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Hyderabad on Saturday.

Iyer's incredible catch makes Jonty feel old

NEW DELHI

Legendary South African fielder Jonty Rhodes has hailed Shreyas Iyer's recent boundary heroics as a sign of how much cricket has evolved. During a recent IPL match, the Punjab Kings captain pulled off a stunning "catch-and-release" move to dismiss Hardik Pandya, leaving icons like Rohit Sharma and Sachin Tendulkar in absolute awe. Rhodes, long considered the gold standard for athleticism, took to social media to share his admiration. He joked that while he previously felt like the "father of fielding," watching modern athletes like Iyer makes him feel like the "grandfather."

He noted that during his playing days, ninety-nine percent of his time was spent in the inner circle. As of now, the focus has shifted to the boundary ropes, where players perform "airborne saves" to turn certain sixes into wickets.

Tactics not injury, keeping Sundar from bowling

NEW DELHI

Gujarat Titans' assistant coach Parthiv Patel has cleared the air regarding limited bowling role this season. Despite fan concerns, Patel confirmed that the all-rounder is fully fit and that his reduced time at the crease is strictly a tactical "match-up" decision rather than a result of any injury. The Titans have shifted their strategy this year, promoting Sundar to the top four in the batting lineup to provide him with more stability. While his batting role has grown, his off-spin has been used sparingly. Patel explained that the conditions in Ahmedabad simply haven't favored Sundar's style of bowling. "It is purely a conditions-based decision," Patel noted, adding that the team looks for specific moments, such as when left-handed batters are at the crease, to utilize his skills effectively.

Beyond Sundar, Patel addressed the team's middle order, which has seen very little action due to the sheer dominance of their top three hitters. With stars like Glenn Phillips and Shahrukh Khan waiting in the wings, the coach insists there is no reason for alarm. The team prefers their set openers to finish matches whenever possible, a plan that is clearly working well so far.

Currently enjoying a confident three-match winning streak, the Gujarat Titans are focused on maintaining their momentum. As they prepare to face the Mumbai Indians, the coaching staff remains committed to their flexible, data-driven approach to ensure every player is used at the perfect moment.

Rachana Bahadur joins PGTI board as advisor

NEW DELHI

The DP World Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI) has officially appointed Rachana Bahadur as a senior advisor to help shape the future of the sport in the country.

A heavyweight in the global financial sector, Bahadur currently serves as the Senior Vice President and Country Head for Synchrony India, bringing over thirty years of professional expertise to the golfing organization.

Bahadur's impressive career includes nearly two decades of international leadership across the United States, Europe, and Asia.

Having held high-ranking roles at prestigious institutions like Goldman Sachs, JPMorgan Chase, and Morgan Stanley, she is well-versed in driving digital transformation and strategic growth.

Her appointment is seen as a major move to bring corporate excellence and a global perspective to Indian professional golf.

Kapil Dev, the legendary cricketer and current President of the PGTI, expressed his excitement over the new addition. He noted that Bahadur's deep experience in building high-performing organizations will be invaluable as the tour enters its next phase of expansion.

The organization believes her "people-first" philosophy will help create a better ecosystem for players while elevating the tour's brand on the international stage.

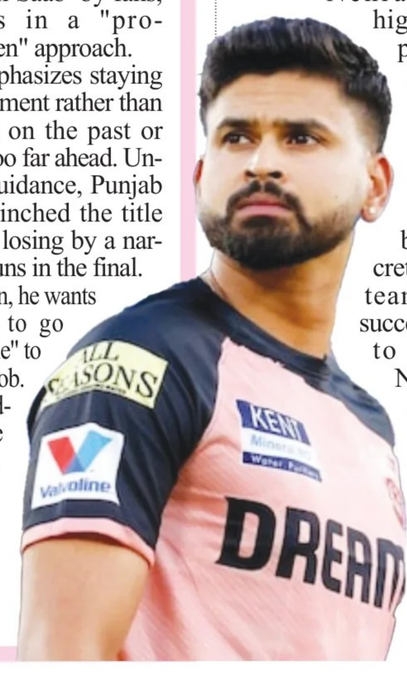
Iyer vows full throttle for Punjab glory

NEW DELHI

Shreyas Iyer has a clear mission for the ongoing IPL season - lifting the trophy. Since taking over the Punjab Kings captaincy in 2025, the star batter has transformed the team into a dominant force.

Currently leading the points table, Iyer is urging his players to stay focused and aggressive. The Mumbai-born leader, affectionately nicknamed 'Sarpanch Saab' by fans, believes in a "process-driven" approach.

He emphasizes staying in the moment rather than dwelling on the past or looking too far ahead. Under his guidance, Punjab nearly clinched the title last year, losing by a narrow six runs in the final. This season, he wants the team to go "full throttle" to finish the job. Iyer's leadership style is defined by selflessness and collaboration.



"Nehra Ji" redefines IPL coaching

NEW DELHI

Former Indian spinner Harbhajan Singh has showered praise on Ashish Nehra, describing the Gujarat Titans head coach as a "football-style" manager who never sits still. Harbhajan highlighted Nehra's unique, high-energy approach during IPL matches, noting how his constant movement and communication have become the secret sauce for his team's massive success. According to Harbhajan, Nehra's greatest strength is his incredible man-management. He explained that wherever Nehra goes, he makes everyone feel comfortable and relaxed. This infectious positive energy has helped keep the Gujarat Titans united since they joined the league in 2022. Unlike traditional cricket coaches who often watch from the dugout, Nehra is frequently seen pacing the boundary, offering real-time advice to his players. "He is like a football coach," Harbhajan remarked during an interview. "He never sits down. Throughout the entire match, he finds a player to talk to and share his deep understanding of the game." This hands-on style has clearly worked, as Nehra led the Titans to an IPL trophy in their very first season and has kept them as top contenders ever since. Beyond the tactics, Harbhajan called Nehra one of the finest human beings in the sport. By creating a dressing room that balances a relaxed atmosphere with a sharp focus on winning, Nehra has redefined coaching in the T20 era. Fans and players alike now recognize "Nehra Ji" as the tactical heartbeat of the Gujarat franchise.

INDIAN SHOOTING STARS JET OFF FOR CAIRO

A massive 71-member Indian contingent has landed in Cairo, aiming for dominance at the season's first Junior World Cup.

NEW DELHI

A hopeful squad of 58 Indian shooters and coaches departed for Cairo, ready to compete in the season's first ISSF Junior World Cup. Running from April 19 to 27, this prestigious tournament marks the beginning of the international junior circuit for rifle, pistol, and shotgun disciplines.

India is sending a massive total of 71 athletes to Egypt, making it the largest contingent among the 25 competing nations. The team will compete across 18 medal events, including 15 Olympic categories. Excitement is particularly high for the men's 25m pistol event, which is expected to join the Olympic lineup by 2032. This trip serves as a crucial warm-up for the Junior World Championships taking place in Germany this June.

The move to Cairo follows a mixed performance at the recent World Cup in Spain. While India reached seven different finals, the duo of Mukesh Nelavalli and Palak secured the team's only gold medal in the air pistol mixed team event. Other rising stars, like Sonam Uttam Maskar, showed great grit by finishing fifth in a world-class field dominated by top-ranked Chinese shooters.

With 284 athletes gathered in the Egyptian capital, the competition will be fierce. However, the large Indian squad aims to dominate the leaderboard and prove their depth in the sport. Beyond the medals, these young athletes are focused on gaining vital international experience, building the mental toughness and discipline required to represent India on the world's biggest sporting stages.

Udayan Mane wins big at South African golf

JOHANNESBURG

Indian golfer Udayan Mane returned to his winning ways, securing a dominant seven-shot victory at the Indian Golf Premier League (IGPL) Invitational in South Africa. Playing at the famous Royal Johannesburg West course, the Olympian finished with a stunning 20-under par total, marking the largest winning margin seen all season.

Mane started the final day with a comfortable lead, and despite two early bogeys, he quickly found his rhythm.

He fought back with seven birdies to card a final-round 67. This victory is a major milestone for Mane, ending a title drought that stretched back to 2021. It brings his total professional career wins to twelve and moves him up to third place in the season's overall rankings. Gaganjeet Bhullar, a frequent winner on the tour, finished in second place at 13-under par.

While Bhullar played steady golf, he struggled to keep pace with Mane's aggressive scoring. Meanwhile, Shaurya Binu grabbed headlines by firing a 63, the best single-round score of the entire tournament, helping him climb into a tie for fourth place alongside veteran Shiv Kapur.

The win also shook up the team standings. Mane's incredible performance pushed his team, Atri Mumbai, to the top of the leaderboard. As the players celebrate their success in Johannesburg, the IGPL series prepares to move to Congo for the next exciting leg of the tour. For Mane, this trophy proves he is back at the top of his game.

Tim David makes history with a quick fire century

BENGALURU

Australian powerhouse Tim David etched his name into the record books, becoming the second-fastest player to reach 1,000 runs in Indian Premier League history. Playing for Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) against the Delhi Capitals, David reached the milestone in just 560 balls, trailing only Andre Russell's record of 545.

During the high-stakes match at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, David contributed a brisk 26 runs off 17 balls. His performance featured three boundaries and a towering six, maintaining a strike rate of over 152 before he was dismissed by spinner Axar Patel. This milestone highlights David's incredible efficiency, across his career with Mumbai Indians and RCB, he has maintained a blistering career strike rate of 177.83.

The match itself was a rollercoaster for the home fans.

After Delhi Capitals won the toss and chose to bowl, RCB's openers Phil Salt and Virat Kohli provided a strong start with a 52-run partnership. Salt was the standout performer, smashing 63 runs, but the rest of the batting lineup struggled to maintain the momentum. RCB eventually finished their 20 overs with a total of 175/8.

Delhi's bowlers played a crucial role in restricting the score. Skipper Axar Patel led from the front with impressive figures of 2/18, supported by Kuldeep Yadav and Lungi Ngidi, who also took two wickets each.

While the match remains competitive, the night belonged to Tim David, whose consistent power-hitting has solidified his reputation as one of the most dangerous finishers in world cricket.

Indian women fight back to level series

BUENOS AIRES

The Indian Women's Hockey Team has displayed incredible resilience to finish their four-match tour of Argentina with a dramatic series-leveling performance. Despite a shaky start against the world-class hosts, the Indian side rallied in the final stages to prove they can compete with the very best on international soil.

The tour began with two tough losses. In the opening games, India showed flashes of brilliance with goals from Navneet Kaur, Annu, and Ishika, but Argentina's clinical finishing led them to a 2-0 series lead. Many expected the hosts to dominate the remaining fixtures, but the Indian squad had other plans. In the third match, Navneet and Neha both converted penalty corners to secure a vital 2-1 victory, keeping Indian hopes alive.

The finale on April 17 was a masterclass in defensive grit. Both teams battled to a 0-0 draw in regulation time, leading to a high-pressure shootout. India held their nerve to win the shootout 3-2, officially evening the series. Stand-in captain Navneet Kaur expressed immense pride, noting that coming back from a two-game deficit against a top-tier opponent shows the team's true character and growth.

This tour serves as a major confidence booster for the squad as they return home to their training camp. By showing they can handle intense pressure and elite competition, the team has proven they are on the right path toward global success.

Champions lead massive crowd at Bengaluru race

BENGALURU

The streets of Bengaluru are set to come alive, as the 18th World 10K kicks off with a massive crowd of over 35,000 runners. This year's race has seen record-breaking interest, with the main event selling out in just one week, proving that distance running is now India's fastest-growing sport.

Defending champions Abhishek Pal and Sanjivani Jadhav are returning to lead the pack. Pal, the current event record holder, faces stiff competition from marathon star Kartik Karkera. Meanwhile, Sanjivani Jadhav enters the race in top form after her recent victory at the Mumbai Marathon. They will compete for a share of the impressive $210,000 prize fund alongside international stars like Uganda's Harbert Kibet and Sarah Chelangat. Adding to the excitement, Olympic medalist Blanka Vlasic will be at the Cubbon Road starting line as the event's global ambassador. Indian hockey star Jarmanpreet Singh also joined the festivities to reveal a special "Finisher Tee" for the top 1,500 runners, noting that the discipline required for hockey and long-distance running is remarkably similar.

This year, participants will receive a unique "running passport" to track their progress. Every finisher gets a special stamp to mark their achievement, turning the document into a lifelong memento of their fitness journey. Whether running on the ground or joining virtually, the event highlights the city's vibrant "Endendigu Bengaluru" spirit, uniting professional athletes and hobbyists in a massive celebration of health and community.

Indian sports chief slams poor track quality

NEW DELHI

In a shocking revelation, Adille Sumariwalla, spokesperson for the Athletics Federation of India (AFI), warned that over 90% of the country's athletic tracks are substandard. Speaking at a press conference, he highlighted a massive crisis in sports infrastructure, citing poor materials, faulty construction, and incorrect measurements across the nation.

Sumariwalla did not hold back, alleging that many tracks are built using cheap tire rubber instead of high-quality polyurethane. This lack of proper material results in surfaces that are the wrong thickness and potentially dangerous for athletes. He noted that the laying methodology used by many contractors simply does not meet international requirements, which could hinder the development of India's rising sports stars. For years, the AFI stayed away from certifying tracks to avoid being linked to suspicious awarding processes. However, following a "shocking" meeting with World Athletics in Tokyo, the federation has been ordered to step in. Global experts shared data that proved the situation in India is worse than previously thought.

To fix this, the AFI is launching a strict new oversight plan. They intend to vet a global list of approved vendors and intensify the testing of all existing and future tracks. The federation has already begun training experts on how to properly measure and test surfaces. By taking a more active role, the AFI hopes to ensure that Indian athletes finally have world-class facilities that match their world-class talent and hard work.

OFFICIAL PROCESS BEGINS AFTER STAR ATHLETE COMPLAINS

NEW DELHI

World Athletics Vice-President Adille Sumariwalla confirmed that a formal investigation is underway following serious allegations made by Paralympic hero Sumit Antil. Antil, a two-time gold medalist, has accused javelin coach Naval Singh of mental harassment and the frequent use of abusive language.

The complaint has sent shockwaves through the sporting community, gaining significant weight after Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra came forward to back Antil's claims. During an Athletics Federation of India (AFI) press conference, Sumariwalla acknowledged the report, stating that while the "matter is in process," he would not comment further to avoid distracting from the day's primary proceedings.

The Sports Authority of India (SAI) also clarified that while Naval Singh is not a direct employee, he is currently engaged by the AFI for the National Coaching Camp. SAI officials confirmed they are working closely with the federation to address the grievances raised by Antil and several other supporting athletes.

The situation has sparked a wider conversation about the treatment of India's top sporting talent. Ace wrestler Vinesh Phogat took to social media.

Rising star Kimi Antonelli leads Formula One

LONDON

Teenage sensation Kimi Antonelli says he feels stronger and more in control as he dominates the start of the Formula One season. The nineteen-year-old Mercedes driver currently leads the world championship, holding a narrow nine-point edge over teammate George Russell. After winning two of the first three races, the young Italian is quickly becoming the new face of the sport.

Antonelli credits his newfound confidence to the lessons learned during his rookie year. By returning to familiar tracks, he feels more relaxed and better equipped to handle the intense pressure of a race weekend. "I feel more in control of the situation now," Antonelli shared during a recent video call. He noted that having a full season of experience under his belt has allowed him to focus on small improvements and "raise the bar" with every single lap.

The season has faced unusual challenges, with recent races in Bahrain and Saudi Arabia cancelled due to regional conflict. This unexpected break gave Antonelli time to reflect on his historic achievement as the first Italian since 1953 to win back-to-back races.

Russell reacts to Verstappen possible exit talk

LONDON

Formula One driver George Russell said he would understand if rival Max Verstappen decides to leave the sport amid growing frustration with new rules. Speaking during a media session, Russell said Verstappen's feelings are natural, given his success and recent criticism of Formula One changes. The Dutch driver, a four-time world champion, has hinted at focusing on activities that make him happy. Russell noted that Verstappen has already achieved most goals in the sport and may look beyond records. He added that Formula One remains bigger than any single driver. Meanwhile, Verstappen is competing at the Nürburgring Nordschleife this weekend as he prepares for a 24-hour endurance race.

Kiccha Sudeep's Rs 20 crore mansion redefines luxury

Sandalwood superstar Kiccha Sudeep continues to make headlines, not just for his box-office hits, but for his stunning lifestyle. At the heart of his success is a Rs 20 crore mansion in Bengaluru, a space that blends sleek modern architecture with the actor's personal legacy.

The Vikrant Rona star's home is a testament to two decades of dominance in the film industry. Beyond its modern design, the property serves as a symbol of Sudeep's smart financial planning. The actor has built a massive net worth through a mix of high-budget films, long-running stints as the host of Bigg Boss Kannada, and various real estate investments. His passion for luxury extends well beyond his front door. Sudeep is known for his impressive car collection, featuring a Rs 3 crore Lamborghini, and his preference for high-end accessories, including a wristwatch valued at roughly Rs 1.5 crore. When traveling across India, the actor often opts for private helicopter rides, costing over Rs 15 lakh per trip, to maintain his busy schedule.

Professionally, Sudeep remains a powerhouse. Following the success of his 2025 thriller Mark, he is preparing for several major projects, including Billa Ranga Baasha and the highly anticipated Kabzaa 2. By balancing massive stardom with strategic investments, Sudeep has secured his place as one of the wealthiest and most influential figures in Indian cinema.

High Court shields Allu Arjun from AI misuse

The Delhi High Court is set to issue an interim order to protect the "personality rights" of Telugu superstar Allu Arjun. The move comes after the actor filed a lawsuit targeting the unauthorized use of his name, voice, and image across various digital and physical platforms.

Legal representatives for the Pushpa star flagged several serious concerns to Justice Tushar Rao Gedela. These include the sale of unapproved merchandise, the circulation of offensive content, and the rise of AI-powered tools. Specifically mentioned was a "Fake Call Pushpa" app, which uses AI to mimic the actor's appearance in video calls, a tool lawyers warn could be easily exploited for fraud.

The court also addressed digital intermediaries involved in selling such merchandise. One defendant, Frankly Retail Private Limited, informed the court that it had already removed the offending links and was ordered to file a compliance report within three days.

This ruling follows a growing trend in Indian law to protect celebrities from the "Wild West" of generative AI. Allu Arjun joins a list of figures, including Mohanlal, Kajol, and Sunil Gavaskar, who have successfully sought court protection against identity theft. By restraining the use of his "identifiable traits" without consent, the court aims to ensure that an actor's brand remains under their own control in an increasingly digital world.

Actress claims "dark reality" behind Bigg Boss Marathi

Actress Sonali Raut has sparked a major controversy after publicly alleging that her stint on Bigg Boss Marathi 6 left her with severe health issues. In a detailed social media post, Raut claimed that behind the show's glamorous facade lies a "dark reality" of extreme filth and negligence that caused her both physical and mental distress.

Raut specifically alleged that she contracted Scabies, a contagious skin infestation, due to the house's "unhygienic living conditions." She claimed contestants were forced to share towels and use poorly maintained washrooms. To support her claims, she shared a 39 second video showing rashes and marks across her body. The video included shocking text overlays describing litter, rotting food, and even dead rats in the bathroom areas. Furthermore, Raut alleged that her pleas to leave the show for medical reasons were edited out of the final broadcast.

The situation has now escalated into a legal battle. In April 2026, the actress reportedly sent a formal legal notice to the show's producers, citing significant health impacts. By tagging the network and demanding accountability, she has forced a public conversation regarding contestant safety and the responsibility of reality TV producers.

While the industry often thrives on high pressure drama, these allegations raise serious questions about where entertainment ends and the mistreatment of participants begins. As the story gains traction online, the makers of Bigg Boss Marathi 6 are under increasing pressure to respond to these claims regarding their on-set hygiene standards.

Vijay Deverakonda teases new epic action movie

Tollywood star Vijay Deverakonda has set the internet ablaze by revealing the first look at his latest big-budget project. Known currently by the working title #VDxShouryuv, the film promises to be an intense journey filled with raw emotion and massive scale.

Deverakonda teamed up with director Shouryuv, the filmmaker behind the hit movie Hi Nanna, for this new venture. While their previous work was a soft drama, this project looks far more aggressive. The actor described the director's vision as "wild," suggesting a story that balances deep feelings with explosive power.

The newly released poster is a visual spectacle. It shows Deverakonda in a commanding pose wearing golden armbands. He is surrounded by a gritty, mythic landscape featuring warriors, chained dogs, and ancient weapons. The most intriguing part of the poster is the tagline "All this anger was once love." This hints that the hero's rage comes from a place of deep personal loss or heartbreak. The production has hired a top-tier global crew to ensure a high-quality cinematic experience. The team includes cinematographer Alejandro Martínez and music composer Hesham Abdul Wahab, along with Hollywood-level visual effects experts.

Produced by Vyra Entertainment, the film is already being hailed as one of the most ambitious projects in Telugu cinema. Deverakonda told fans he is giving his "all" to this role. If the poster's dark and fiery tone is any indication, audiences are in for a legendary tale of fury and fate.

Dalip Tahil honors music legend Asha Bhosle

Veteran actor Dalip Tahil recently turned to social media to offer a moving tribute to the late singing icon Asha Bhosle. The legendary playback singer, affectionately known as "Asha Tai," passed away on April 12 following a brief hospitalization for a chest infection and exhaustion.

To honor her memory, Tahil shared a nostalgic video clip from his popular film Thanedaar. The footage features the classic song "Jeena Hai Toh Hans Ke Jiyo," a track that perfectly captures the spirit of resilience. While the male version is well-known, Tahil highlighted the female version voiced by Bhosle, thanking her for an "immeasurable contribution" to the global music industry.

In the video, Tahil addresses his followers directly, explaining that the song's lyrics, which encourage living life with a smile, represent his philosophy on why he continues to engage with fans through modern social media reels. The tribute resonated deeply with audiences, bridging the gap between 1980s cinema and today's digital world.

Dalip Tahil, a staple of Bollywood for over forty years, has appeared in iconic hits like Baazigar and Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak. His tribute reflects the somber mood of an industry mourning one of its greatest voices.

Music legend prince never wanted long life

As the world prepares to mark the tenth anniversary of Prince's passing, stunning new details have emerged regarding the rock legend's views on aging. Close friends and longtime collaborators reveal that the iconic artist, who died at 57, originally never intended to live past the age of 35.

LeRoy Bennett, Prince's former lighting director and confidant, shared these intimate reflections during a series of commemorative interviews. Bennett recalled a conversation when the singer was just 26, where Prince expressed a desire for a short, impactful life rather than longevity. "We are all lucky we had a couple more decades with him," Bennett remarked, highlighting the star's intense nature.

Prince, born Prince Rogers Nelson, was known for a work ethic that pushed human limits. Bennett described a grueling schedule of two-hour soundchecks and multiple back-to-back performances. The singer often tested his crew's breaking points, seeking a level of perfection that few "mortals" could match. Despite the initial friction, Bennett and Prince became inseparable, bonded by their shared vision for boundary-pushing stage designs and extravagant performances.

The "Purple Rain" singer's life ended tragically on April 21, 2016, at his Paisley Park estate due to an accidental overdose. While his death shocked the world, these new insights paint a picture of a man who lived with a constant sense of urgency. Prince may have feared growing old, but his legacy remains timeless, continuing to ignite fires in the hearts of fans a decade later.

Vikram celebrates 60th birthday with fiery teaser

Tamil cinema superstar Chiyaan Vikram celebrated his 60th birthday with a massive gift for his fans, the "First Flame" teaser for his upcoming film, Chiyaan 63. Released by Sathya Jyothi Films, the clip arrived with the bold promise that "what starts as a flame ends in a blaze," instantly sparking a social media frenzy.

The teaser focuses on a dramatic silhouette and intense visuals rather than giving away the plot. The cryptic phrase "Cooking Starts Now" suggests a high-energy production currently in development. Within hours, the footage began trending globally, proving that Vikram's influence in the industry remains incredibly potent as he enters his sixth decade.

This project marks a highly anticipated reunion between Vikram and director Anand Shankar. The duo previously found success with the stylish thriller Iru Mugan, and fans are eager to see if they can recapture that magic. Adding to the excitement is a musical score by Santhosh Narayanan, known for his edgy and unique soundtracks, and cinematography by R.D. Rajasekhar.

Producers Sendhil and Arjun Thyagarajan are backing the film, which has already moved past early production rumors to become one of the year's most discussed titles. Filming is expected to begin this May, shifting the project from a birthday announcement to an active set. With a strong creative team and a "mass entertainer" vibe, Chiyaan 63 has successfully lit its first spark, leaving audiences waiting for the full fire to follow.

City Hilights (English Daily) published by P. Sunil Kumar (Publisher) on behalf of Immaculate Broadcasting Consortium World News (P) Ltd., No. 18, JRV Court, Queens's Road, Bengaluru – 560001 and printed at Manipal Media Network Limited Opp. Govt School, Kempalinganahalli, Near Kunigal Cross, Nelamangala TQ, Bangalore Rural Dist. -562123, Printed at No-7/2 plot no.CA-3/1,28(p)&29(p) Kapanoor 2nd Stage Industrial Area Kapnoor Village Kalaburagi -585104. Printed at S. J. R. V. Printers, No. 208 Plot No. B-019 KSSIDC Industrial Area, Irfan Ahamed Khan Pathan, 4th Main Road Gamanagatti, Hubballi-Dharwad – 580025. and Elegant Offset Printers Pvt. Ltd. No. 5-61/1, Shed No. M-6, Yeyyadi Industrial Estate, Yeyyadi, Mangalore - 575 008. (RNI No: KARENG / 2015 / 63243), Regd. No. BGGPO-2581/2017-2019 Posted at Bengaluru PSO-560026 Email - cityhilights.news@gmail.com Phone: 080-41209042. Copyright. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is prohibited.